



If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

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## Environment Committee

Wednesday 12 May 2021, 3.30pm

Copthorne Hotel and Resort. Solway Park, Masterton

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### Members

Cr Gaylor (Chair)

Cr Blakeley

Cr Hughes

Cr Laban

Cr Lee

Cr Ponter

Cr van Lier

Barbie Barton

Cr Connelly (Deputy Chair)

Cr Brash

Cr Kirk-Burnnand

Cr Lamason

Cr Nash

Cr Staples

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

# Environment Committee

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Wednesday 12 May 2021, 3.30pm

Copthorne Hotel and Resort. Solway Park, Masterton

## Public Business

No.	Item	Report	Page
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public participation		
4.	<a href="#">Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on 1 April 2021</a>	21.134	3
5.	<a href="#">Whaitua implementation update</a>	21.167	7
6.	Crown Funded Projects and programmes update	Oral item	



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Environment Committee meeting on 13 May 2021.

Report 21.134

## Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Thursday 1 April 2021

Taumata Kōrero Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council  
100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington, at 9.31am

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### Members Present

Councillor Gaylor (Chair)  
Councillor Connelly (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Blakeley  
Councillor Brash  
Councillor Hughes  
Councillor Kirk-Burnnand  
Councillor Laban  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Nash  
Councillor Ponter  
Councillor Staples  
Councillor van Lier  
Barbie Barton (remotely, via Teams)

Members participating remotely at this meeting via Teams counted for the purpose of quorum, in accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act 2002.

### Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to open the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

## **Public Business**

### **1 Apologies**

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Nash

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Lamason.

The motion was **carried**.

### **2 Declarations of conflicts of interest**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

### **3 Public participation**

There was no public participation.

### **4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 18 February 2021 – Report 21.67**

Moved: Cr Connelly / Cr Nash

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of 18 February 2021 – Report 21.67

The motion was **carried**.

### **5 Update on progress of action items from previous Environment Committee meetings – April 2021 – Report 21.101**

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment spoke to the report.

**Noted:** The Committee requested that the status be changed from 'Completed' to 'Ongoing' for the action item: Crown Funded COVID-19 Recovery Projects.

### **6 Submissions on the Navigation and Safety Bylaws Review – Report 21.103**

Grant Nalder, Manager, Harbours, spoke to the report.

Moved: Cr Staples / Cr Brash

That the Committee:

- 1 Notes that submissions were received on the proposed amendments to the Wellington Region Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2009.
- 2 Agrees to receive and consider late submissions.
- 3 Agrees to hear four submitters, deliberate, and recommend adoption of the amended bylaws at the next Environment Committee meeting on 13 May 2021.

The motion was **carried**.

**Noted:** The Committee requested that the Chair allow an allocation of 10 minutes per submitter on the proposed amendments to the Wellington Region Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2009 when submissions are heard.

**7 Wainuiomata Mainland Island Threatened Species Sanctuary update – Oral Report**

Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager, Catchment updated the Committee with progress from October 2020 to March 2021 and spoke to the detail provided in the tabled Power Point presentation.

The Department of Conservation (DoC) have agreed to investigate other DoC funding sources in addition to their \$30,000 contribution towards the feasibility study.

**8 Whaitua update – Oral Report**

Tim Sharp, Programme Manager - Whaitua, updated the Committee with an oral report via Teams.

Mr Sharp advised that full day meetings of the Whaitua Committee are currently being held fortnightly. Recommendations for maintaining and improving the quality of fresh water, and three waters management are being finalised. He emphasised that the Whaitua Committee is committed to delivering a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) that covers all of the major issues. Mana whenua are leading much of the mahi and are committed to being involved in terms of how they see the roll-out of the WIP and their on-going future role.

A considerable amount of time has been put into reviewing previous and new information and information resulting from community events. It is estimated that this will be completed by June 2021 and presented to the Council at its meeting on 24 June 2021. Any recommendations will be discussed at a Council workshop in July 2021 with changes finalised and presented at the Council meeting on 19 August 2021 meeting. Upper Hutt City Council have indicated that they will pick up recommendations for Water Sensitive Design in their 2022 District Plan review and any outstanding matters in a subsequent 2024 plan change.

It was acknowledged that the Te Kahui Taiao Group have contributed significantly in partnership with the Whaitua Committee.

**9 Crown Funded Projects and Programmes update – Oral Report**

Wayne O’Donnell, General Manager, Catchment, updated the Committee with progress on the 8 projects and spoke to the detail provided in the tabled Power Point presentation.

**Noted:** The Committee requested officers to provide an update at the next meeting regarding the total number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE’s) that will be required for the Predator Free Wellington project as the number of external contractors will have an impact on Corporate Services, particularly Finance.

**Noted:** The General Manager for Environment Group will provide councillors with the Transmission Gully Project mitigation planting plans within Belmont Regional Park.

## **Karakia whakamutunga**

The Committee Chair invited Councillor Connelly to close the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 10.01am.

Councillor P Gaylor

**Chair**

Date:

**Environment**  
**12 May 2021**  
**Report 21.167**



**For Information**

## **Whaitua Implementation Update**

### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

#### **Purpose**

1. To advise the Environment Committee on progress and opportunities in delivering on our operational non-regulatory Whaitua responsibilities. This builds on the Whaitua Implementation update (Report 20.343) provided to the Committee in November 2020. That report had a focus on the regulatory aspects of recommendations in the Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation programmes.

### **Te tāhū kōrero**

#### **Background**

##### ***Where we have been***

2. Since the establishment of regional councils in 1989, regional land and river management has been governed by several Parliamentary Acts. The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 (SCRCA) and the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) in particular have shaped the delivery of many environmental services within regional councils. The Acts focus on protecting people, property and environmental resources.
3. Recent national freshwater reform has highlighted the need for regional councils to broaden their focus beyond the historic basis for these Acts and account for the wider cultural, social, environmental and economic factors impacting freshwater outcomes. New freshwater rules take into account how catchment health drives water quality. There are also strong signals being sent by Government around meaningful involvement of mana whenua, including through the principles of Te Mana o Te Wai. For regional councils, this all amounts to a significant shift from a somewhat disjointed land, air and water management model towards an integrated, catchment-based approach.
4. Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) is responding to signals from the Government and mana whenua for a more integrated approach to land and water management. The proposed Natural Resources Plan (pNRP) and associated Whaitua processes are Greater Wellington's main methods to achieve, at a minimum, the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020 (NPS-FM), as well as other policies, plans and outcomes that are more integrated. The Whaitua Implementation Programmes (WIPs) completed to date – Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua along with the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Statement (NTS) – require integration of delivery across the organisation, with mana whenua partners, other agencies and the wider community.

5. The Environment Management and Catchment Management groups within Greater Wellington are learning more about integrated delivery through various internal projects and programmes. This work aims to link policy and operations more deliberately and strategically and has yielded a series of learnings and opportunities for improvement, which are detailed in this paper.

## **Te tātaritanga Analysis**

### ***How we have responded so far***

6. To achieve successful delivery of WIP and NTS recommendations Greater Wellington must use two methods. Firstly, regulatory methods through plan changes (effectively adding to and revising the pNRP) which are then implemented through resource consents and compliance. This is a complex and lengthy process and, while a crucial tool in delivery of freshwater outcomes, Greater Wellington's ability to meet WIP and NTS expectations is being delayed until the statutory processes are complete. The second method is via non-regulatory actions which are implemented through operational programmes.
7. For some time Greater Wellington has (albeit in an ad-hoc manner) adapted long-standing environmental programmes in response to signals from Government and mana whenua for greater integration and delivery of environmental services. Most recently, the Mahi Waiora project has enabled Greater Wellington to implement aspects of the pNRP in a more strategic manner, through multidisciplinary teams (including mana whenua) working more cohesively and effectively together with communities. The following case studies provide a detailed account of how specific operational programmes are reorienting to better align with WIP and NTS recommendations.
8. ***Case Study: Mahi Waiora***
  - a The Mahi Waiora project was established in 2015 and sought to better implement aspects of the pNRP through Greater Wellington teams working more effectively together with communities. In 2018 a concept of prototyping performance across teams to improve environmental outcomes at a catchment/Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) scale was developed. This led to the establishment of three prototypes in Waitohu (north of Ōtaki) in 2018 and in Pouewe (north of Pāuahatanui Inlet) and Parkvale in the Wairarapa lowlands in late 2019.
  - b Success for the three prototype teams started with shared agreement of local environmental issues that led to the co-design of catchment targets and actions to remedy them as defined in a catchment plan, with many of the targets being based on WIPs. An evidence based approach was taken in all design and implementation decisions made by each of the three prototype teams, and team practice was evaluated through the use of a maturity model and culture survey to baseline and improve team performance and culture.
  - c Results showed that inter-team practice has improved significantly over time, with actions and interactions becoming more focused, repeatable and strategic.

This process also allowed adaptive learning to occur so adjustments could be made to prototype team decision making and actions over a short time period.

- d Another success was that working at a Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) or Water Management Unit (WMU) scale (rather than the entire region), with two to three year targets (rather than 20 year targets). With preference given to the top five issues in the area the scope of work became manageable and the team had a sense of purpose that united and aligned their focus and increased their engagement with the work.
- e A fourth prototype based on wetlands, rather than a spatially defined area, has developed wetland identification tools, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and other guidance which has been shared with Greater Wellington staff, land owners and reference groups. The work of this team has been picked up by Ministry for the Environment to become national guidance on technical wetland determination, pasture species information and a pasture assessment.
- f A more detailed account of the success of Mahi Waiora can be found in [Attachment 1](#).

9. ***Case Study: Greater Wellington's Flood Protection Response***

- a Across the Wellington region a number of key urban areas are at risk of flooding, including the Hutt Valley; Ōtaki and Waikanae on the Kāpiti Coast; Porirua; and the principal Wairarapa towns. Greater Wellington's Flood Protection department provides services to support these communities in managing flood risk. These services range from advisory and emergency response services to maintenance of flood protection and control infrastructure as well as improving flood security and environmental enhancement.
- b The WIPs and NTS challenge us to consider the holistic management of catchments in the provision of these services. Greater Wellington must understand, recognise and reflect WIP values in the work programmes undertaken by the department. In broad terms, Greater Wellington's Flood Protection department has been adapting longstanding work processes to reflect Whaitua values right across the region and anticipate that further adaptation will be made as the remaining WIPs are developed and become operative.
- c We are seeking ways to work more closely with communities across the Region through collaborative processes with the community (Waiohine, Mangatarere, and Waipoua) and expanded riverside scheme committees (Upper Ruamāhanga Advisory Committee). We are also supporting cross-council initiatives to learn lessons and improve Greater Wellington's approach to community empowerment.
- d We are working to improve co-design practices through plan development, which will be reflected in the forthcoming Floodplain Management Planning Guidelines. Co-management and partnership have been embedded within the new River Management Consents which have recently been adopted for use in Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River. This approach is proposed to be mirrored across the wider region.

- e We recognise that rivers are only in flood for a small percentage of time and that through the work programmes of Flood Protection we can achieve a wide range of benefits across the four well-beings. This includes supporting the achievement of the Whaitua objectives in improving water quality through:
  - i the Te Kāuru riparian management programme
  - ii support to the Ōtaki and Waikanae Friends Groups
  - iii the Te Awa Kairangi consent (the collection of environmental data and embedding of co-management practices)
- f We are actively exploring the challenges, set by Whaitua and the NPS-FM, with the Te Mana o Te Wai lens, to think holistically and develop integrated plans.
- g For more detail on Greater Wellington's Flood Protection response, see [Attachment 2](#).

10. **Case Study: Greater Wellington's Land Management Response**

- a Greater Wellington's Land Management department provides a wide range of support services for regional landowners through programmes for hill country erosion support, nursery operations, on-farm good management practice advice and incentivised actions, and riparian and wetland protection programmes.
- b A key part of evolving the delivery methods of these support services involves connecting communities with shared objectives to drive change at a farm-level, guided by issues identified at a catchment-level. This is consistent with WIP and NTS objectives.
- c Since the completion of the Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIPs as well as the NTS, Greater Wellington's Land Management department has changed the grant/incentive funding criteria that supports land owners undertaking environmental enhancement or risk mitigation actions, including hill country erosion control, riparian and stock exclusion enhancements, and farm system improvements resulting in water quality or biodiversity outcomes. Incentives are now targeted by guidance provided by the WIPs and NTS. For example, with hill country erosion works and the Riparian programme, funding is now prioritised into FMUs identified with the highest sediment loads and E.coli levels.
- d We are also making significant progress in learning how to engage more collaboratively and creating more efficient and effective long term impacts for catchments. Some specific examples of where Greater Wellington Land Management staff are actively seeking to use new methods to increase the uptake of catchment mitigation actions are provided in [Attachment 3](#).

**What we've learned**

- 11. While several areas of Greater Wellington's environment management and catchment management services are working in line with direction in the pNRP, WIPs and NTS (see case studies above), we are yet to achieve fully integrated delivery of freshwater outcomes as the WIPs and NTS intended. Greater Wellington's progress on this journey has yielded key learnings around the challenges we have faced and may continue to encounter going forward.

12. A significant challenge exists inherently within the assigned collective responsibility of achieving freshwater outcomes. At a high level, landowners, regional councils, local and district councils, mana whenua and industry organisations (eg, Beef and Lamb, Fonterra) all have interest in, and responsibilities for, achieving catchment-based freshwater goals. Although Greater Wellington’s overarching interest is to improve freshwater health for the region, within this “sphere of interest” is a lesser-reaching “sphere of influence”, which limits the extent that Greater Wellington is able to effect change. Understanding the sphere of influence as it relates to Greater Wellington’s freshwater responsibilities can be helpful in prioritising work programmes and allocating resources/funding. Figure 1 illustrates the control/influence/interest complexity below.

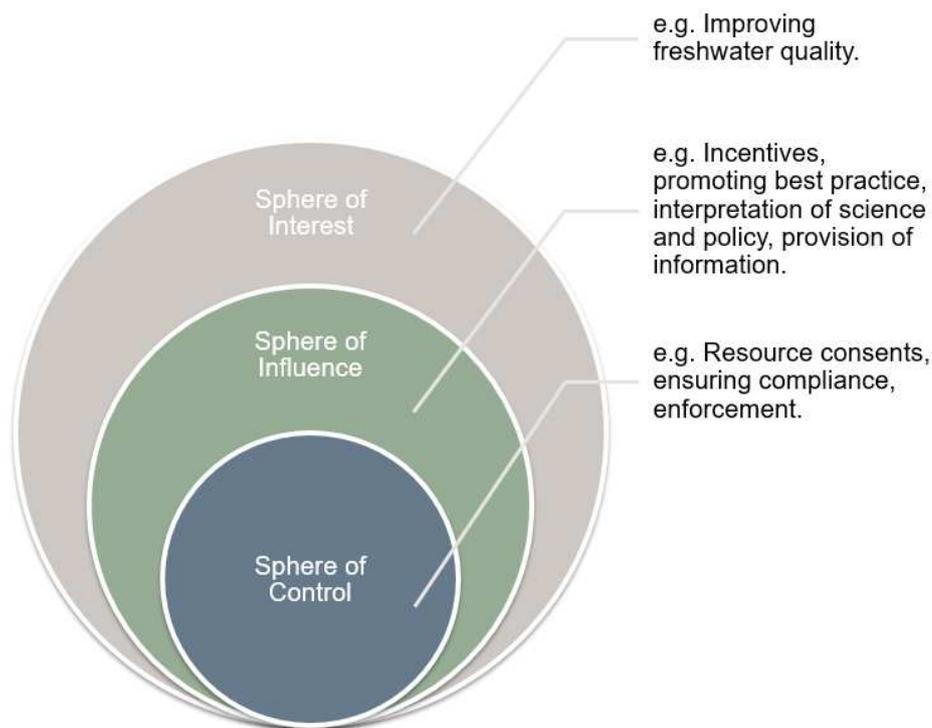


Figure 1: GW's Sphere of Control

13. This collective responsibility challenge is also reflected at a more granular level by the co-delivery requirements prescribed by most WIP recommendations. Across the WIPs and NTS there is approximately 184 recommendations, each with varying levels of joint ownership implied. This is further convoluted by the scope of the recommendations (ie, varying from achievable via Business as Usual (BAU) to aspirational and from regulatory methods to non-regulatory methods), and the fact that each recommendation is not mutually exclusive; many need to be actioned simultaneously to account for crossover.
14. While the Whaitua process has been successful in clarifying community values and outcomes sought for freshwater, there is a lack of clarity in understanding how Greater Wellington, alongside others, must work together to achieve WIP and NTS

recommendations. Critically, there are a lot of potential or perceived contradictions between the recommendations and Greater Wellington’s (and others’) responsibilities under legislation, including the RMA and SCRCA, which need to be deliberately and strategically addressed. An example of this is the inconsistency between Greater Wellington’s flood management requirements under the SCRCA which prioritises protection of people and property, versus the NPS-FM and principles of Te Mana o Te Wai which prioritise the health and well-being of water first, versus the alignment of operational work with WIP and NTS values. This is also perhaps a reflection of the WIPs to date: they do not contain a level of operational strategy that clarifies how the work is to be delivered, especially in the circumstance of some WIP recommendations that are clearly aspirational.

15. There are ongoing challenges with how Greater Wellington should effectively prioritise achieving Whaitua outcomes. At present, Greater Wellington lacks prioritisation tools to balance the achievement of WIP and NTS outcomes with continued achievement of BAU, as well as other priorities of Council such as regional resilience, safety and security. The siloed nature of our current structures means it is extremely difficult to prioritise BAU work across departments and groups, let alone how we integrate WIP and NTS objectives. Prioritisation tools and internal processes need to be matured to enable this. The Fit for the Future (FFF) change programme is key to unlocking and maturing our ability to work in an integrated way with our communities.
16. Greater Wellington has also faced difficulties in effectively managing resources to tackle WIP and NTS objectives. Internal specialist expertise, budget and information systems are not resourced in a way that supports a shift from how we have worked for decades – which includes many customer/ratepayer dependencies and expectations – to a fully integrated and holistic approach. For example, the Mahi Waiora project has encountered challenges in sharing, analysing and updating information on rural properties and their owners for the Waitohu prototype. A lack of community support in the 2020 Revenue and Financing Policy Review also meant that Greater Wellington’s Flood Protection department was not able to action changes to funding arrangements in the Upper Ruamāhanga that would support the achievement of wider water quality objectives. The resourcing challenge is perhaps a symptom of Greater Wellington’s lack of clarity around its “sphere of influence” and in turn its ability to prioritise work and resource allocation.
17. A gap exists in Greater Wellington’s provision of external communication regarding regional freshwater objectives and WIP values. Engagement with the wider community across the region, and recently with the Te Kāuru riparian programme, has indicated a mix of understanding and support for wider environmental improvements. The principle of giving the river more room to act naturally has met with mixed reactions from riverside landowners due to the localised impact on land. In a similar context, many landowners/farmers are embracing greater expectations around kaitiaki, whereas some are questioning why change is needed. “Changing their minds” using targeted communications to increase understanding would be more efficient, and likely more successful in the long term, than utilising our regulatory tools to achieve the same outcome.
18. Perhaps one of the more powerful learnings to date is regarding Greater Wellington’s desire to succeed in achieving integrated delivery and implementation of WIP and NTS

recommendations, despite the shortcomings identified above. There is collective recognition that internal and external cohesiveness is the key to success in achieving regional freshwater goals. Greater Wellington's drive towards more integrated delivery has been demonstrated by the success of the Mahi Waiora prototypes and by the high engagement in Greater Wellington's FFF phase 1 feedback process.

## **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

### **Next steps**

#### ***Opportunities identified***

19. Greater Wellington has an opportunity to maximise its "sphere of influence" (see paragraph 12 and Figure 1, above) in achieving regional freshwater goals by being more strategic in its approach. This is a critical piece that has been missing so far and means that we are not prioritising and resourcing our work as effectively as we need to achieve WIP and NTS objectives. Suggested next steps for this are:
  - a To clarify and communicate across departments the limits of control vs influence Greater Wellington has in achieving freshwater objectives. This needs to be done in alignment with WIPs and NTS values and with a Te Mana o Te Wai lens, thereby complementing work we will need to do with our mana whenua partners to ensure its appropriate application.
  - b Complement the WIPs and NTS by carrying out an additional level of strategic planning that specifies how recommendations will be achieved operationally. This includes identifying how WIP and NTS recommendations interface with other responsibilities under overarching Acts (eg, the RMA and SCRCA) as well as how the recommendations fit with Greater Wellington's current work programmes and resources.
  - c Increase community engagement on regional freshwater objectives. This broader approach needs to be a core component of Whaitua implementation going forward in order to improve engagement and communication with external groups, other agencies and organisations to build understanding around collective responsibility - and reinforce how collaboration complements policy and regulations set at national and regional levels.
20. Greater Wellington's investment in the FFF programme is an opportunity to improve the integration of catchment and environment service delivery structures, processes and systems to better support the requirements of the WIPs and NTS and other regional policy and implementation programmes. There is a specific opportunity for the key insights of the Mahi Waiora prototype teams and its wetland group to be integrated into the FFF change programme, especially in the design and delivery of catchment based planning, prioritisation and management, which is one of the functions proposed in its operating model.

## **Ngā āpitihanga**

**Attachment/s**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Achieving Whaitua Objectives through the Mahi Waiora Project
2	Achieving Whaitua Objectives through Greater Wellington's Flood Protection Department
3	Achieving Whaitua Objectives through Greater Wellington's Land Management Department

**Ngā kaiwaitohu**

**Signatories**

Writers	Ali Caddy – Team Leader, Strategy and Advice – Biodiversity Vanessa Vermeulen – Biodiversity Advisor
Approver/s	Wayne O'Donnell – General Manager, Catchment Management Al Cross – General Manager, Environment Management

<b>He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga</b> <b>Summary of considerations</b>
<p><b><i>Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference</i></b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has responsibility to consider changes in the legislative frameworks and the implications these changes have on Council's environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes and initiatives.</p>
<p><b><i>Implications for Māori</i></b></p> <p>Greater Wellington, through the NPS-FM, is required to manage freshwater in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o Te Wai. The information provided in this report reflects and supports mana whenua interests through WIPs and NTS recommendations.</p>
<p><b><i>Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies</i></b></p> <p>Implementation of the NPS-FM, pNRP and the Whaitua Committee Programme are core environmental resource management activities of the 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan.</p>
<p><b><i>Internal consultation</i></b></p> <p>Catchment and Environment Group Managers were consulted throughout the drafting of this report.</p>
<p><b><i>Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.</i></b></p> <p>There is reputational risk for Council associated with the timing and phasing of implementation of WIPs and NTS recommendations.</p>

## Attachment 1 to Report 21.167

### Achieving Whaitua Objectives through the Mahi Waiora Project

In terms of impact on the environmental outcomes of water quality and biodiversity in each of the three catchments (Waitohu, Pouewe and Parkvale), the key results achieved through the Mahi Waiora project to date are:

- E.coli/DNA and nutrient sampling of all waterways in each of the three catchments,
- dissolved oxygen sampling and a rapid habitat assessment in Parkvale catchment,
- īnanga (whitebait) habitat/density sampling in Waitohu catchment, and
- fish passage barrier assessments completed in Pouewe catchment.

This data was analysed by prototype teams, shared with a range of stakeholders eg, land owners, catchment communities and territorial authorities, and led to a range of remedial actions, which included:

- Working with Kāpiti Coast District Council and Porirua City Council on a joint E.coli education programme, including visiting 40 septic tank owners in Waitohu and sharing E.coli reduction information with them and dog owners in the area.
- Re-measuring all 4 target areas (nutrients, river/stream ecology, wetland condition and cultural health) in the Waitohu catchment plan after 2 years, and, while we didn't expect any of them to improve over such a short timeframe, there was an improvement in waterway visual clarity and a slight improvement in wetland condition. There has been an increase in coordinated activities taken on stream margins where macroinvertebrate condition (measured as MCI), is expected to improve.
- The Waitohu review noted above also highlighted how the team could improve its approach to target identification and evaluation at a catchment scale.
- Significant Activity Progress (a proxy measure of team work) was made in the development of water quality indicators around riparian and wetland habitat restoration with actions completed or underway with ten land owners in Waitohu eg, through stream restoration, fence removal/planting to remediate the īnanga spawning habitat for cultural health monitoring, native riparian planting, exotic tree removal and pasture retirement. Progress was also made in Parkvale to support land owners with riparian planting/fencing and dung beetle improvements on properties that bordered waterways and those with wetlands and a guide on good land management practice was developed.
- The Parkvale team have discussed options for water race management in light of upcoming stock exclusion regulations and seek to work with Carterton District Council on a joint approach to managing the issues involved.
- The Pouewe team focused on community engagement at Lamb and Calf and Battle Hill days and developed communications to encourage land owners in sediment reduction practices.

**Attachment 2 to Report 21.167**

**Achieving Whaitua Objectives through Greater Wellington’s Flood Protection Department**

The WIPs challenge us to consider the holistic management of catchments to maintain and improve the quality of our fresh water. We are challenged to understand, recognise and reflect these values in the work programmes undertaken by the department, and other functions across Greater Wellington. The table below summarises these values and how Greater Wellington’s Flood Protection department is responding to them.

**Note:** Greater Wellington has a limited mandate within the Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP and NTS. Where we are able to, we provide development advice and support to Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) and Porirua City Council (PCC) on sustainable development through reviewing the District and Spatial Plans, supporting the policy of hydraulic neutrality, and providing development advice to property owners, and developers on flood hazard information.

<b>Ruamāhanga WIP Values</b>	
<b>Value</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>We are all connected to the water, so we are all equally responsible for creating a more natural state</b></p> <p><b>Holistic land and water management creates resilience</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We understand and are exploring broader catchment planning and water quality issues through our approach to floodplain management plans and long term strategies. This includes socialising key issues and themes with community groups such as Te Mana o Te Wai, giving the river more room to move as well as taking into account climate change. We are promoting the development of these Floodplain Management Plans (FMPs) and strategies as starting points for the achievement of wider objectives and where ever possible seeking to weave these outcomes through these plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recreational and cultural opportunities are enhanced</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through recently adopted Te Kāuru FMP we have sought opportunities for cultural and recreational improvements along the rivers in the upper Ruamāhanga and are working with a community group and Masterton District Council (MDC) to consider recreational opportunities through the Masterton River Corridor.</li> <li>• Through the Living River Plans currently progressing with the communities of Greytown and Carterton we are exploring opportunities for cultural, recreational enhancements such as improving river corridor access and creating eco-corridors.</li> </ul>

**Attachment 2 to Report 21.167**

<p><b>There is a sustainable economic future</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Protection has committed through the Te Kāuru FMP to provide protection from a 100 year flood in urban areas and a 20 year flood to rural properties. This protection supports communities’ ability to have a sustainable economic future and be able to plan ahead with certainty.</li> <li>• We provide advice to the district councils in Wairarapa on sustainable development. We are engaging early on the Wairarapa Combined District Plan to support this WIP outcome.</li> <li>• The provision of 100 year flood in urban areas and a 20 year flood to rural properties is outlined in the principles of Flood Protection endorsed by Council and is proposed to be provided under the FMP’s and plans currently in development for Carterton and Greytown. This will also be reflected in the Lower Valley.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water quality is improving</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater Wellington is seeking new resource consents for river management that balances mechanical intervention in Wairarapa Rivers with the need to improve water quality – this includes carrying out work in the wetted channel to reduce the release of fine sediment.</li> <li>• Through the Te Kāuru FMP and supported by Jobs For Nature Funding we are progressing a riparian planting programme which aims to provide natural erosion protection and an improvement to water quality by reducing run-off.</li> <li>• Through the development of FMPs, and the River Plan’s for the Waiohine and Mangatarere we are exploring the creation and integration of wetlands into the river environment to improve flood resilience and water quality.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ecological enhancement is sustainable</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Te Kāuru FMP has established a role and ongoing budget for riparian management in the Upper Ruamāhanga. It is envisaged that this role would connect with the district councils, community groups and Greater Wellington’s Land Management team to ensure that enhancement work is sustainable.</li> <li>• The Te Kāuru riparian planting programme is considering approaches to both site selection, future maintenance and the integration of natives to ensure that the enhancements made are sustainable.</li> </ul>

**Attachment 2 to Report 21.167**

<p><b>Ko wai, mo wai, no wai: waterways connect communities; there is a sense of identity for people and water</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and involving communities in the decision making process for flood risk management is being undertaken in a range of different ways across our work programme to raise awareness of local rivers and provide opportunities for communities and individuals to be part of the long term management of rivers.</li> <li>• The Te Kāuru FMP was delivered through a sub-committee which included both mana whenua and community representation. This group led wider community engagement throughout plan development.</li> <li>• Community led processes are being trialled in the Waiohine, Waipoua and Mangatarere catchments where concepts of wider integrated catchment management are being explored and led by the community.</li> <li>• Flood Protection manages Scheme committees containing riverside landowners who directly contribute to river work adjacent to their properties. We are looking to widen these groups to river management committees with a wider remit for ecological, recreational and cultural improvements. Greater Wellington proposed changes to the funding policy to allow for a wider pool of ratepayers to be rated, increasing the available funding and the number of properties that can receive the benefit of the service. This was not progressed at the last review of the revenue and financing policy.</li> <li>• We seek to actively engage communities early on in the development of flood hazard modelling.</li> <li>• We are currently planning the approach to Lower Valley management planning but this will be developed with local community involvement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>There is safety and security of (drinking) water supply</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Protection staff work with the district councils and WWL across Wairarapa to provide erosion protection to critical water supply assets. A recent example is the channel realignment work proposed in the Waiohine to protect the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) bore field from drawdown, erosion and silt entrainment.</li> </ul>

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**Achieving Whaitua Objectives through Greater Wellington’s Land Management Department**

<p><b>Hill Country Erosion Support</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With assistance from MPI’s One Billion Trees fund, our hill country erosion operations have quadrupled since 2017/18 (total hill country erosion opex 2017/18 \$1M, total opex 2020/21 \$4M) which is consistent with recommendations in both WIPs around the need for more hill country erosion support to improve soil conservation and reduce sediment entering waterbodies. Future Crown funding to support hill country erosion operations beyond 2022/23 is expected, but not yet confirmed. Our Long Term Plan provides extra funding to enable an increased hill country erosion programme in the event that Crown funding is discontinued.</li> <li>• Akura Nursery produces poplar and willow pole material to supply farmers and river managers a tool to assist with soil and river erosion processes. In recent years with increasing interest for soil conservation in the Porirua Whaitua and steady demands in the Ruamāhanga catchment, there has been a shortage of poles to meet landowner demand. Currently a feasibility study is underway to investigate an expansion of the current nursery activities by utilising treated effluent (Carterton wastewater) for irrigating 22ha of land at the south end of Carterton. An expanded nursery operation could potentially increase the supply of pole material by up to 15-20,000 poles per annum (in addition to the 30,000 poles currently produced) enabling more progress towards sediment mitigation recommendations in these two WIPs.</li> <li>• In addition to increasing demand for willow/poplar plant materials for hill country erosion operations, Akura has also responded to significant demand increase for native plants. This trend in more natives is expected to grow even more in future years. Demand has increased more rapidly than our ability to collect and propagate eco-sourced plants. We have already engaged more staff resource to increase eco-source seed collection, yet there will be a lag time of 2-3 years to see plant production scale up with the time involved in seed propagation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Catchment Communities and Partnerships</b></p>
<p>A few brief examples are below of innovative catchment community activities underway this year within Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Ruamāhanga catchments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ahiaruhe Eco Area (near Stonehenge Aotearoa, Carterton): A small, but very engaged catchment group operating under a basic catchment plan has potential to easily merge with other small groups in the FMU and form a wider catchment plan. This group is part of a FarmIQ trial Greater Wellington is supporting. It is anticipated that the online farm planning tool will enable better coordination of farm and catchment planning at an increased pace and scale.</li> <li>• Wainuioru (east of Masterton): This is a large catchment group which has a complete catchment restoration plan and significant Crown funding from One Billion Trees and Jobs for Nature. Greater Wellington is supporting this community-</li> </ul>

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led initiative that involves multi-agency collaboration towards their catchment goals.

- Upper Waipoua Kaitiaki (north-west of Masterton): This is part of a Beef and Lamb catchment planning pilot project which is on track to have a catchment action plan by the end of financial year. This group was established some time ago and has potential to merge into the more urban/lifestyle reaches of the Waipoua, where there is an active urban Masterton group.
- Parkvale (north Carterton): This is described above as one of the Mahi Waiora prototypes and part of the Beef and Lamb catchment planning pilot project. Parkvale community will have a catchment action plan by the end of financial year. This group is attempting to be focused at the FMU scale.
- Ruakokapatuna (east of Martinborough): This is part of a Beef and Lamb catchment planning pilot project. They will have a catchment action plan by the end of the financial year.
- Pouewe (Porirua catchment): This is part of the Mahi Waiora prototypes aimed at better Greater Wellington integration processes to deliver WIP recommendations and is described further above.

**Riparian and Wetland protection work programmes**

The following summary of Wetland and Riparian enhancement works is as of year-end 2019/20, June 2020:

In the context of the 194 non-wetland, category 1 waterbodies:

- 74% of sites (143 sites) have stock excluded (ie, have been fenced to exclude stock, retired land, or have no stock).
- In 4% of Cat 1 sites (8 sites) we are working with landowners to develop a management plan for livestock access.
- 18% (35 sites) have a Riparian Plan that is either recently completed or in progress.
- 4% (8 sites) appear to have stock in the vicinity of the site but have not engaged in our support programmes.

In the context of the 209 wetland, category 1 waterbodies:

- 65% (135 wetlands) have stock excluded (ie, have been fenced to exclude stock; have retired stock from the wetland, or have no stock). Note: fencing can be temporary or permanent. 19 landowners have operational Restoration Management plans with funding support through Greater Wellington's Wetland Programme for fencing.
- 22% (45 wetlands) have yet to exclude stock. Of these 45 wetlands, 10 wetlands have Restoration Management Plans with planned fencing work and funding support through the Wetland Programme, and 5 are partially fenced. The landowners of 3 wetlands have signed up to the Wetland Programme to receive support for fencing with Restoration Management Plans being developed.

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- 14% (29 wetlands) we are not sure of the status of stock exclusion. The landowners of these wetlands have not made contact and have not yet engaged with Greater Wellington.
- For other wetlands not scheduled in Schedule A3 or F3 of the PNRP with restoration plans underway, some require stock exclusion while others already have stock exclusion provisions in place.

We have prepared Wetland Restoration Management Plans for 29 non-scheduled wetlands. Of these 29 wetlands, 18 wetlands have stock excluded (ie, are fenced or have no stock), and 11 wetlands are pending fencing to exclude stock with funding through the Wetland Programme.