

If calling, please ask for Democratic Services

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## Wairarapa Committee

Tuesday 21 September 2021, 10.00am

Remotely, via Microsoft Teams

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### Members

Councillor Staples (Chair)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mayor Beijen	South Wairarapa District Council
Councillor Gaylor	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mayor Lang	Carterton District Council
Mayor Patterson	Masterton District Council
Councillor van Lier	Greater Wellington Regional Council

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

# Wairarapa Committee

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Tuesday 21 September, 10.00am

Remotely, via Microsoft Teams

## Public Business

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	Apologies		
2.	Conflict of interest declarations		
3.	Public participation		
4.	Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Wairarapa committee meeting on 30 March 2021	21.138	3
5.	Update on Progress of Action Items from Previous Wairarapa Committee Meetings	21.278	6
6.	Wairarapa Flood Protection Update Report – September 2021	21.387	10
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8.	Public Transport - Update	21.417	28



Please note these minutes remain unconfirmed until the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 21 June 2021.

Report 21.138

## Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 30 March 2021

Hurunui o Rangi Room, Carterton Events Centre at 10.05am.

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### Members Present

Councillor Staples (Chair)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mayor Beijen (from 10:32)	South Wairarapa District Council
Councillor Gaylor (from 10.20am)	Greater Wellington Regional Council
Mayor Lang	Carterton District Council
Mayor Patterson	Masterton District Council
Councillor van Lier	Greater Wellington Regional Council

### Also present

Councillor Lamason	Greater Wellington Regional Council
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### Public Business

#### 1 Apologies

Moved: Mayor Patterson / Mayor Lang

That the Committee accepts the apology for lateness from Councillor Gaylor and Mayor Beijen.

The motion was **carried**.

#### 2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

### Acknowledgment of Community Member

The Chair acknowledged the death of Bernie George who was the Chair of Greater Wellington's Lower Ruamahanga Valley Flood Management Advisory Committee, and was a member of that Committee for many years. The acknowledgment noted the valuable

contribution that Mr George made to both the Committee and the community as a whole. As a mark of respect a one minute's silence followed.

**3 Public participation**

There was no public participation.

**4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 15 September 2020**

Moved: Mayor Lang / Councillor van Lier

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on 1 December 2020 – Report 20.492.

The motion was **carried**.

**5 Update on Progress of Action Items from previous Wairarapa Committee Meeting – March 2021 [For Information]**

Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection spoke to the report.

**Noted:** The Committee requested that officers arrange for the mayors of the territorial authorities involved in the gravel industry working group to be provided with the dates and agendas of future meetings.

**6 Wairarapa Flood Protection update report - Report 21.108 [For Information]**

Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Implementation, Flood Protection, and Malcolm Birch, Riparian Management Advisor, Implementation, Flood Protection, spoke to the report.

Councillor Gaylor arrived at 10.20am, during discussion on the above item.

**7 The Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy – Report 21.89 [For Information]**

Geoff Henley, author of the Strategy from HenleyHutchings and Alastair Smail, Programme Leader, Urban Water Management, spoke to the report and the Power Point presentation.

Dame Margaret Bazley also spoke to the report and aspects relating to water resilience in the Wairarapa.

**Noted:** The Chair thanked Mr Henley for his work and acknowledged and thanked Dame Margaret Bazley for her contribution regarding water resilience in the Wairarapa region.

Mayor Beijen arrived at 10.32am, during discussion on the above item.

**8 Public Transport – Update – Report 21.117 [For Information]**

Scott Gallacher, General Manager, Metlink, spoke to the report and the Power Point presentation.

**Noted:** The Committee asked officers to provide more accurate details of patronage numbers on a daily basis and in particular for Mondays and Fridays.

The meeting closed at 11.34am.

Councillor Staples  
**Chair**

Date:



For Information

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS WAIRARAPA  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Te take mō te pūrongo**

**Purpose**

1. To update the Wairarapa Committee (the Committee) on the progress of action items arising from previous Committee meetings.

**Te horopaki**

**Context**

2. Items raised at the Committee's previous meetings, which require action by officers, are listed in **Attachment 1**. The status and a brief comment is provided on progress to date.

**Ngā hua ahumoni**

**Financial implications**

3. There are no financial implications from this report, but there may be implications arising from the actions listed.

**Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

**Next steps**

4. All completed items will be removed from the action items table for the next report. Items not completed will continue to be progressed. Any new items will be added to the table, following this Committee meeting, and circulated to the relevant business group for action.

**Ngā āpitihanga  
Attachment**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Action items from previous Wairarapa Committee meetings

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatory**

Approvers	Wayne O'Donnell – General Manager, Catchment Management Group Scott Gallacher – Kaiwhakahaere Matua Waka/General Manager, Metlink
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**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga  
Summary of considerations**

***Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference***

The action items are of an administrative nature and support the functioning of the Committee.

***Implications for Māori***

There are no direct implications for Māori arising from this report.

***Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies***

Action items contribute to Council's or Greater Wellington's related strategies, policies and plans to the extent identified in **Attachment 1**.

***Internal consultation***

There was no additional internal consultation in preparing this report and updating the action items.

***Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.***

There are no known risks or impacts.

Action items from previous Wairarapa Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action	Status and comment
1 December 2020	<p><b>Wairarapa Flood Protection update report - Report 20.462</b></p> <p><b>Resolution:</b></p> <p>That a working group be convened to work with the aggregate industry to identify future long-term sites for gravel extraction and report back to the next Wairarapa Committee meeting.</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Under action.</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>Officers are making some progress, workshop delayed due to recent COVID lockdown.</p> <p>Update will be provided in report to meeting 21/09/21.</p>
30 March 2021	<p><b>Mayors of Territorial Authorities involved in the Gravel Industry Working Group:</b></p> <p>To be provided with the dates and agendas of future meetings</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Ongoing</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>Officers are making some progress, workshop delayed due to recent COVID lockdown.</p> <p>Update will be provided in report to meeting 21/09/21.</p>
30 March 2021	<p><b>Patronage Numbers on Wairarapa Line trains:</b></p> <p>Provide more accurate details of patronage numbers on a daily basis and in particular for Mondays and Fridays</p>	<p><b>Status:</b> Under Action</p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>Officers are in the process of updating this data and strengthening the insights.</p>



## For Information

### WAIRARAPA FLOOD PROTECTION UPDATE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2021

#### Te take mō te pūrongo

##### Purpose

1. To update the Wairarapa Committee (the Committee) on:
  - i. gravel industry interaction;
  - ii. implementation progress for the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan (TKURFMP); including progress of both the MfE and CIP (now known as REDIU) Government funded projects.
  - iii. the ongoing operational maintenance of the Wairarapa River Schemes;
  - iv. the progress of investigations projects; Waipoua Urban Catchment Plan, Waiohine River Plan, and Mangatārere River Plan, flood hazard mapping and regional initiatives;

#### Te tāhū kōrero

##### Background

1. Please refer to the Wairarapa Flood Protection Update Report from 21 June 2021, number 20.220, for previous work progress. Link: [Wairarapa Flood Protection Update Report - June 2021](#)

#### Te tātaritanga

##### Analysis

2. This section provides an update on the Flood Protection works in the Wairarapa since the last Wairarapa Committee meeting.

##### *Gravel*

3. We are currently arranging a workshop with the peer reviewer for the Wairarapa Gravel Stocktake Report to understand what changes are required and are working towards developing a new gravel analysis process. Masterton District Council and Carterton District Council are arranging a meeting with the extractors about the process for developing land based extraction site which Greater Wellington will also attend. The proposed meeting was delayed due to the August 2021 COVID-19 lockdown.

#### Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan - Implementation

4. The Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee (URRMAC) meeting of 23 June 2021 covered the following topics:

- i. the Northern Wairarapa River Schemes meetings
  - ii. Governance and funding for Te Kāuru
  - iii. MfE and REDIU project updates
  - iv. Waipoua Urban member vacancy
5. During the last few weeks of winter there have been some heavy rainfall events. These have caused erosion in a number of areas. Te Kāuru’s vision is to allow the river more room to move and to first consider, when assessing any response, if we need to do anything at this stage, or if the issue is best put on the annual work programme to be discussed at the next scheme meeting.
  6. The current erosion cases are minor in nature and are considered low risk, therefore a decision has been made not to take immediate action and to put the work onto the annual work programme for each scheme. This decision was based on the ‘Hierarchy of Intervention’, page 13 of the Flood Management Plan.
  7. The decision has not been received well by some landowners as they are used to us getting into the river and undertaking works as soon as any erosion event occurs. As a result of this we are currently developing landowner information packs/brochures and will be working with URRMAC to further develop the ‘Hierarchy of Intervention’.
  8. The Te Kāuru funding proposal is now being progressed as part of the Revenue and Financing Policy review being undertaken for the Annual Plan next year. Work has restarted on defining the catchment and completing a benefits analysis. Flood Protection is working with the Finance Department’s project team to ensure all information is ready for public consultation in March 2022.
  9. The URRMAC will have a workshop on 13 September 2021 to discuss the ‘allowing the river more room’ and the work required for the funding proposal.

*Current status of MfE Project*

10. Work was halted during COVID-19 Alert level 4 in August 2021. Planting is able to recommence during Alert Level 3 at the Barrage gates site, where 12,000 plants are being planted. Other work as per last quarter is continuing.

*Current status of REDIU Project (River Road, Masterton)*

11. Detailed design work is progressing as scheduled.
12. Regular hui are taking place with Greater Wellington and iwi partners: Ngāti Kahungunu o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa. Partners are involved in co-design of tree planting, signage, storyboards, memorials, and mahi toi, amongst other works.
13. Communication plan has been finalised for Fish and Game, DoC, MDC, and other stakeholders.
14. To ensure environmental responsibility, wetland restoration work in the Wairarapa, close to the Ruamahanga awa, will be funded through this REDIU Project programme of works.

15. A sustainable procurement programme is in place for this programme, with specific deliverables on worker diversity, professional development, youth training, and life skills training.

### ***Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan - Investigations***

#### *Waipoua Urban Catchment Plan*

16. Over the last quarter we have continued to progress the hydrological assessment with the community group to gain agreement on the hydrological component of the flood hazard modelling. This has largely been completed and we are on track to provide draft flood hazard maps in 2021.

#### *Upper Ruamāhanga Rural Modelling*

17. Over the last quarter we continued to liaise with Masterton District Council to progress the hydrological assessment and liaising with Masterton District Council. This has largely been completed and we are on track to provide draft flood hazard maps in 2021.

#### *Design Lines*

18. The initial draft design channel lines for the Upper Ruamāhanga Rivers is nearing completion ahead of wider engagement and targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

### ***Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan - Operations***

19. Advisory committee meetings have been held for all Upper Ruamāhanga schemes and all resolutions passed. Willow pole planting in the Waingawa River and Gladstone Scheme have been completed and planting has begun in the Mt Bruce and Waipoua Schemes. There has also been an erosion protection site and beach vegetation clearing completed in the Mt Bruce Scheme. Ongoing gravel extraction is continuing in the Gladstone scheme as planned.

#### ***Waiohine River Plan - Operations***

20. The Waiohine River has had ongoing erosion issues at SH2 road bridge. There has been gravel extracted from the opposite beach to provide more water capacity and better align the river channel away from the erosion site. Follow up work is planned to place a hard lining of boulders over the erosion site to provide further protection during high flow. A longer term design is being developed as part of the river plan to provide a higher standard of protection at this site.

#### ***Waiohine River Plan - Investigations***

21. The River Plan has been released for consultation. Over 200 submissions have been received, which are now being reviewed and analysed by the project team. Dates for the hearings panel have not been fixed yet due to the ongoing lockdown, but it is hoped that these will be held shortly after a return to COVID-19 Level 1. We anticipate Council adoption of the River Plan in this financial year.

#### ***Mangatāre River Plan - Investigations***

22. Over the last quarter, the main focus has been collecting information from riverside landowners to help calibrate the hydraulic model. The hydrological model is being peer

reviewed and we are working with the hydrologists and peer reviewers to address the comments made. We anticipate Draft Flood Hazard Maps will be available by the end of the year with some early engagement with targeted landowners to calibrate the model.

23. BEEA Consulting (Professor Bethana Jackson - Victoria University) have been appointed to develop a Land Utilisation Capability Indicator(LUCI) model. This should assist with integrated catchment planning. LUCI is a GIS/Spatial planning tool developed by professors at Victoria University for helping make integrated decisions at a catchment scale. It allows multiple issues to be mapped spatially and variables to be altered in the room with community groups and stakeholders to identify areas where multiple benefits can be achieved such as upload planting to reduce sediment run-off and to mitigate flooding.

#### ***Lower Wairarapa Valley Development – Operations***

24. Stopbank maintenance in the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme is continuing with repairs at various stock damage sites, vegetation mulching and mowing. The channel maintenance programme in the Taukerenikau has been completed before the August fish spawning condition is triggered. However, in recent flooding some bank erosion has occurred putting a farm building at risk and also exposed a historic dumpsite resulting in rubbish entering the channel. Work is currently underway to clean up and protect the sites from further erosion. Willow pole planting has been started but was disrupted by the COVID-19 Level 4 lockdown. The result of this is fewer sites will be planted than initially planned.
25. The Pukio East Stopbank realignment is in its final stage and excess material will begin to be removed this summer. Communication with the landowners will start shortly regarding access and removal of the excess material. The landowners plan to use approximately half of the material to construct a water reticulation system for their farm operation. Whakawhiriwhiri Stream improvements including the replacement of the Simmonds Culvert is now complete. The Hikunui Road Culvert upgrade has not progressed due to ongoing land access agreement issues. The Barton property has now changed owners and communication with the new owner will begin shortly.

#### ***Lower Wairarapa Valley Development - Investigations***

26. The Tawaha Floodway investigation report has been finalised and has recommended some options regarding changes to the spillway level which will change the current flood level at which the floodway begins to operate. Consultation will be required with the affected parties so the details of the spillway level can be established.

#### ***Regional Initiatives***

27. Over the past quarter the Investigations team has been progressing a number of regional initiatives including:
  - i. **Flood Monitoring Network Upgrades** – We are progressing a joint programme with Hydrology to deliver a regional programme of upgrades to our flood monitoring network. This review will improve resilience, and access to our priority monitoring sites.

- ii. **Improvements to Flood Response and Warning Procedures** – We are working with Civil Defence to update our flood warning and response procedures. This quarter we have commenced a training programme to give our Duty Officers a grounding in the new procedures.
- iii. **Improvements to Flood Forecasting** – We are working to upgrade our flood forecasting capability. Over the last quarter we have been assessing options for developing a flood forecasting platform that will enable our Duty Officers to manage existing flood forecasting models more efficiently. We are also developing an improvements programme for the catchment flood forecast models.
- iv. **Flood Protection Climate Change Policy** – We have been working with Greater Wellington’s Climate Change team to assess MfE’s latest climate change guidelines to develop a policy and supporting procedures for use on Flood Protection projects.

***Ngā hua ahumoni***

**Financial implications**

***REDIU and MfE Projects***

- 28. The projects are being funded with budgets being bought forward in the Long Term Plan (LTP).
- 29. Ruamāhanga River Scheme River Road (REDIU) costs are detailed below:

LTP or Annual Plan description:	Te Kāuru Capex Implementation
Capex allocated:	\$1.72m (LTP 2018-28)
Third Party Funding	\$1.28m
Rates Impact:	\$3k in 20/21, \$17k in 21/22, \$24k in 22/23, then \$19.5k for 23 years (included in the budget baseline)

**Project 4: Ruamāhanga River Major Rivers Riparian Management Project (MfE)**

LTP or Annual Plan description:	Wairarapa River Scheme Maintenance
Loan allocated:	\$0.8m (debt)
Internal Funding:	\$1.7m (LTP 2018-28)
Third Party Funding	\$2.5m
Rates Impact:	\$6k in 22/23, \$34k in 23/24, \$76k in 24/25 then \$97k for 9 years (in the current baseline)

**Te huritao ki te huringa o te āhuarangi**

**Consideration of climate change**

- 30. Each project within the catchment considers and responds to the predicted impacts of climate change when considering the appropriate response to the issue the project seeks to address.

31. This programme aligns with the 2015 Climate Change strategy, which states we will help the region adapt to climate change. The projects increase climate change adaptation and resilience to natural disasters in the region.
32. The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from rock supply vary depending on the quarry source of the rock and transport to the work sites. Quarry sources for projects vary. The emissions from rock supply production and transport are not presently part of the organisation's GHG inventory.
33. The project will also use heavy machinery to carry out the work proposed in these projects. The emissions from these have not been estimated. However in the 2018-19 year use of heavy machinery mainly for flood protection works at Greater Wellington represented 2% of the total organisational carbon footprint (835 tCO<sub>2</sub>e).
34. Quarry selection will be the single largest determinant of project emissions. While it seems likely that quarry operations could be improved to reduce emissions to some extent, the avoidance of long-distance transport of the rock is the most obvious means to minimise emissions. This will be looked into as part of project procurement.
35. Targeted planting will be carried out to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the REDIU projects. The location and scope of this is currently being worked through.
36. Greater Wellington currently assesses options to address flood risk based on the predicted impacts of climate change over the next 100 years. Unless specified differently for specific projects, these values are an increase in rainfall intensity of twenty percent, and a sea level rise of 0.8 metres.

## **Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei**

### **Next steps**

37. Work continues around forming a gravel working group to help manage and develop solutions regarding the supply of aggregate for the construction industry.
38. An URRMAC workshop is scheduled for 13 September 2021; the purpose of this workshop is to work through with URRMAC the concept of allowing the river more room and provide an update on the funding change proposal.
39. The MfE project will continue with plant acquisition, suitable land identification and community engagement.
40. The REDIU project at River Road, Masterton – regular hui will continue between Greater Wellington and iwi partners: Ngāti Kahungunu o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairarapa. Partners are to be actively involved in co-design of any tree planting, signage, storyboards, memorials, mahi toi, amongst other works. Detailed design will continue and is expected to be finalised in October, 2021.
41. The Lower Wairarapa Valley walk over is scheduled for late November 2021. It is also anticipated that a new Chair will be appointed.
42. The Investigations team is supporting the Wairarapa Combined District Plan in its development and is connected to the Boffa Miskell team delivering the works.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writers	Madeliene Playford – Project Manager, Implementation, Flood Protection Hamish Fenwick – Section Leader, Operations, Flood Protection Sharyn Westlake – Team Leader, Implementation, Flood Protection Andy Brown – Team Leader, Investigations, Flood Protection
Approvers	Graeme Campbell – Manager, Flood Protection Wayne O’Donnell – General Manager, Catchment Management Group

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga  
Summary of Considerations**

***Fit with Council or Committee's Terms of Reference***

The URRMAC, LRVFMAC and Waiohine Steering Group operate under their own separate Terms of Reference which were adopted by Council on 12 December 2019. The Waipoua and Mangatāreere Steering Groups are currently informal and have been approved by Democratic Services to remain this way during the development stage.

***Implications for Māori***

There are no implications for Māori arising from this update report.

***Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies***

All river matters discussed here are included in the 2018—28 Long Term Plan.

***Internal consultation***

There is no requirement for internal consultation at this stage for any of the rivers in Wairarapa.

***Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.***

Greater Wellington has adopted procedures and processes to minimise risks. Working with community committees enables a wider understanding of the risks before adoption of work programmes.



## For Information

### WAIRARAPA WATER CONSENTING PATHWAYS

#### Te take mō te pūrongo

##### Purpose

1. To inform the Wairarapa Committee (the Committee) of the background and rationale pertaining to the resource consenting pathway for the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage scheme (WCWSS).

#### Te tāhū kōrero

##### Background

2. Wairarapa Water Limited (WWL), a locally led company, managed the development of the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme (WCWSS) since 2018. History and context of the scheme is provided in **Attachment 1**.
3. To reconfirm the schemes' potential viability, before it did any investigations of its own, WWL conducted an independent assessment of the studies previously led by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington). WWL reported that, "the report's findings validate the previous work by Greater Wellington and have strengthened the case for further work to be done on the scheme." Refer to **Attachment 2** for the media release.
4. The consenting framework under the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) has been in place since 2015 when the PNRP was notified. Fundamentally (in so far as it would impact on the scheme) this framework has not changed through the 'Decisions' on the PNRP following hearings, nor through the appeals process.
5. In September 2020 amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) came into effect, along with National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F).
6. Greater Wellington has in place a plan change work programme to give full effect to the NPS-FM by the end of 2024, with the first plan change scheduled for late 2022.
7. The NES-F largely had immediate effect and people needed to comply with the standards straight away.

8. To fund WWL's investigations, loans were sought and granted to WWL from Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) (formerly the provincial Growth Fund and then Kānoa) and Greater Wellington on a staged basis.
9. As part of WWL's loan conditions precedent (before they could apply for a further funding tranche), they had to lodge a draft resource consent application by the end of December 2020. Their application comprised a set of scheme options which, with Greater Wellington's assistance, were later whittled down to a single preferred scheme. In working with WWL on its application, Greater Wellington had to diligently maintain a clear distinction between its regulatory role and its role as lender, and in fact as a scheme 'promoter' from its role in past years.
10. As with most projects of this scale and/or nature, there was considerable community interest for and against this scheme. Local media statements, especially subsequent to WWL's cessation, have reinforced this interest.

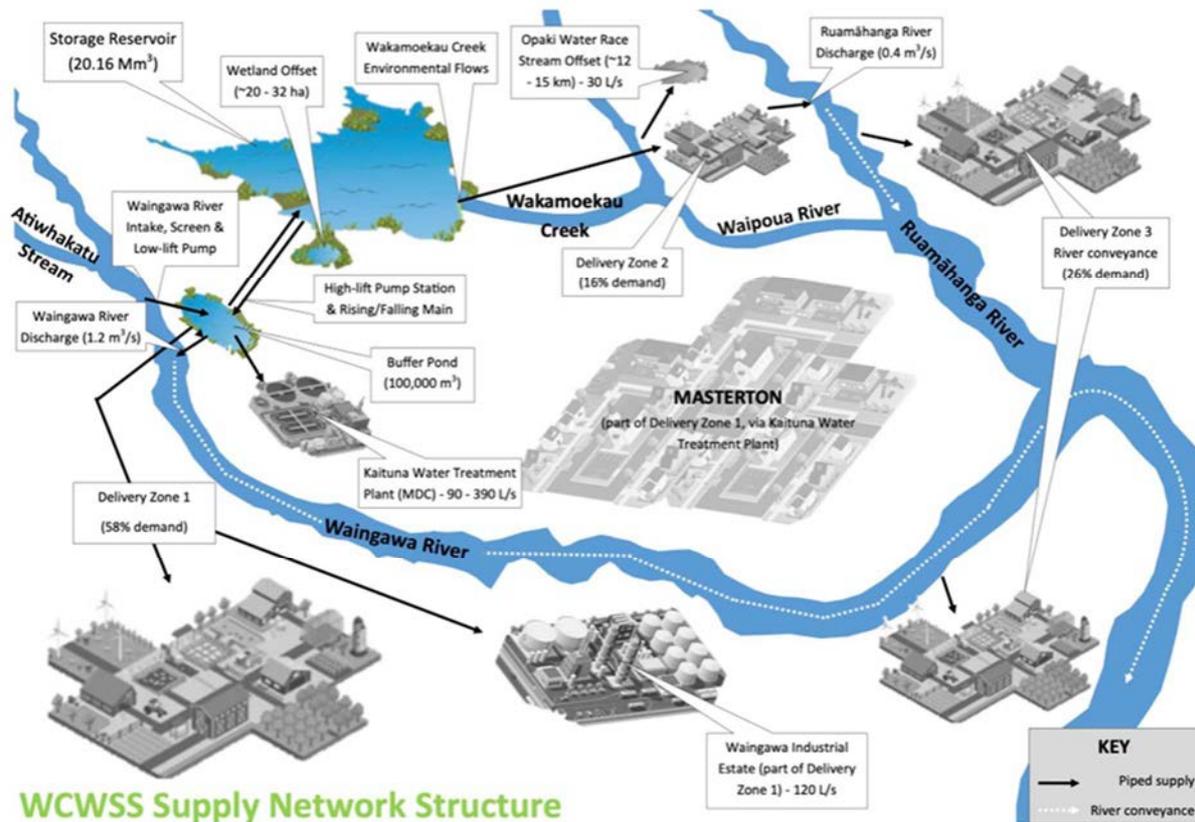
#### ***Greater Wellington's prefeasibility scheme***

11. Greater Wellington's prefeasibility scheme involved storing water at Wakamoekau sourced when the Waingawa River is in high flow, and the remainder from Wakamoekau Stream catchment itself. That water would then be distributed via a piped network to both urban and rural users.

#### ***WWL feasibility scheme***

12. WWL's final feasibility scheme relied on water conveyance down the Ruamāhanga and Waingawa Rivers, as well as distribution piping. As far as consenting is concerned, the river conveyancing introduced a new dynamic; namely 'water takes' by downstream users (taking water that had been released from the dam) when the rivers are below minimum flow (this is a time when users would normally have ceased their take). This is discussed further below.

The illustration below represents how the water is captured and then released for various uses.



**WCWSS Supply Network Structure**

Source: WWL web site.

**WWL's challenges to seeking resource consent**

13. The project required both resource consents and plan changes to the PNRP for the dam construction phase, supplying water to agricultural customers for irrigation, and nutrient management issues.
14. The main point of the project was to supply water to users (mainly existing users) at times when the rivers were below minimum flow. The main water supply issue for users is one of reliability. The period of time when they most want the water is the time when they are most likely restricted (the river is below the minimum flow and users have to cease taking). However, WWL's approach proposing to convey water by river, and users extracting it as they normally would, had challenges because all users must cease taking below minimum flow despite water being released from the dam. A private plan change would be required to allow the taking of water by users of the scheme when water was being released and the river was still below the minimum flow.
15. A plan change, either a private change or a council prepared change, is not possible until after the PNRP is operative (all appeals are resolved). WWL considered that they could not wait until the PNRP was operative. WWL also considered other ways of precipitating a plan change, including legislative change and various ministerial call-in options. These options proved too difficult. The project founded on the need for a plan change within the timeframe that WWL deemed necessary. WWL were advised of the need for a plan change early in conversations about consenting.

16. Consenting also required WWL<sup>1</sup> to work through a range of complex issues around the possible loss of streams and wetlands in the dam construction area, including impacts on mana whenua values and ensuring the project gave effect to Te Mana o te Wai (as a requirement of the NPS-FM). Further detail is provided in **Attachment 3**.

#### ***The consenting pathway***

17. A consenting pathway was available for a large portion of the proposal, with the exception of taking water (released from the dam) from the rivers below minimum flow. Viable consenting pathways were workshopped extensively with WWL over many months.
18. While there were a number of significant consenting challenges, Greater Wellington worked very closely with WWL throughout this entire process, and were committed to providing WWL with all the support and advice they asked for to allow them to make their decisions around consenting issues.

#### ***Other legislative challenges to consent the project***

19. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater provides a set of requirements for managing activities in and around streams and wetland environments; these were particularly relevant for the dam construction phase. These requirements are not at odds with those that exist within the PNRP (since 2015), particularly with respect to the loss of stream and wetland habitat and also on the basis that the scheme would have provided municipal supply to Masterton District. Giving effect to Te Mana o Te Wai and role of the relevant hapū and iwi in determining this was a challenge for the project.
20. The current PNRP appeals process before the Environment Court was also a factor, particularly with respect to the regulatory uncertainty involved. This makes for a complex legislative environment for consenting large scale infrastructure projects, New Zealand wide, up until the cessation of the project, Greater Wellington officers had been working closely with WLL to look at pathways through this complexity (refer **Attachment 4**).

#### ***Consenting for future large scale water storage projects resource consent process***

21. Any other project especially of this scale and/or nature would need to consider the same things as the WWL proposal.
22. There is the potential for the Council's plan change (2022) to consider new policies and rules that would accommodate a large-scale water storage scheme with river conveyance.

**Ngā āpitihanga  
Attachments**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Water Storage Project brief history
2	Community wide water scheme viability (September 2019)
3	WWL's view on consenting
4	Water Storage Scheme Development Ceases (WWL media release)

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writer	Bruce Geden – Project Manager
Approver	Al Cross, General Manager, Environment Management

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga  
Summary of Considerations**

***Fit with Council or Committee's Terms of Reference***

The Wairarapa Committee has responsibility for natural resource management (in this case water) when it falls within the rohe of the Wairarapa.

***Implications for Māori***

Application of Te Mana o te Wai principles.

***Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies***

Strongly relates to the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy and its pending implementation.

***Internal consultation***

There was no internal consultation other than with parties who directly contributed to this report.

***Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.***

There are no known risks or impacts for Greater Wellington.

## Attachment 1

### Water Storage Project brief history

1. Water storage has been considered in Wairarapa for many years including the Black Creek/Wakamoekau area. The motivation to establish a more reliable source of water was initially sparked by the severe drought of 1997-98. Following this, funding for a national research project was provided by Central Government.
2. Initial investigations into potential schemes for Wairarapa started in the early 2000s. Over that time, a number of comprehensive reports were produced providing deep insights into climate and seasonal rainfall patterns, volumes and flows in our waterways and the geological make up of possible storage sites.
3. Studies during this time have also looked at the potential economic, social and cultural opportunities a regional water storage scheme could provide.

### WAIRARAPA WATER USE PROJECT

4. The Wairarapa Water Use Project was set up in 2010 by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) to formally take the initiative from initial scoping through a series of feasibility stages. In 2016, the initiative was renamed 'Water Wairarapa'.
5. Crown Irrigation Investment Limited (CIIL) co-funded with GWRC Pre-Feasibility activities to investigate how water in the Wairarapa could be stored and distributed in a way that contributed to both economic growth and overall environmental sustainability.
6. Work in this Pre-Feasibility Phase included an initial Scoping Study, an Options Identification and Analysis Phase, an Options Refinement Phase, a Prefeasibility Phase, and early Feasibility investigations involving a geotechnical drilling programme, on-farm case studies and financial modelling work. The investigations started with 243 potential water storage sites and progressively and logically were refined to the Wakamoekau site – the preferred site for a community water storage project in the Wairarapa. This investigation work was wound up in the year ended 30 June 2018.

### PGF FUNDING

7. Following this, Wairarapa Water Limited (WWL) was established and worked with GWRC and the three local District Councils to prepare an application for PGF funding in order to complete Pre-Feasibility work and plan the next phase of the project. That application resulted in a Funding agreement for \$800,000 commencing in May 2019.
8. WWL's independent review of the scheme's technical fundamentals, its resource consent pathway, and demand for water "validated the previous work by GWRC and have strengthened the case for further work to be done on the scheme." (refer Appendix 2)
9. On 15 January 2020, a further \$7million of funding was awarded to progress the work required to complete feasibility studies, lodge a resource consent application and prepare for construction start targeted in 2023.
10. On 8 September, WWL notified GWRC that was going to close its operation.

## Attachment 2

### **Community wide water scheme viability (September 2019)**

The development of a proposed community wide water scheme for Wairarapa is viable and essential for the region's future, says a new report.

With funding from the government's Provincial Growth Fund, Wairarapa Water Ltd (WWL) commissioned Wellington-based consultants Lewis Tucker Ltd to provide an independent view on the proposed Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme's (WCWSS) commercial viability.

The Lewis Tucker Report updates earlier work by Greater Wellington Regional Council that looked at the Black Creek/Wakamoekau staged scheme, in the hills north-west of Masterton. The Report does not review environmental, cultural, social and economic impact which has been done recently by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

WWL took over the project from GWRC in June 2018 following completion of their investigations of water storage opportunities in the valley. WWL has since concentrated on the Wakamoekau site.

The Lewis Tucker Report peer reviews key aspects of the scheme. Based on confidence in both the underlying technical fundamentals of the proposed scheme and a positive resource consent pathway, and also clear evidence that there is demand for water, Lewis Tucker believe the WCWSS to be viable and state that there is a compelling case to advance the development of the scheme.

The Report notes that the status quo of Wairarapa's water resources cannot be sustained, particularly given the increased demand for water due to climate change and environmental purposes.

Lewis Tucker's findings align with the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy's position that resilient access to freshwater is the most significant and immediate priority for the region.

The proposed WCWSS is a small-scale scheme which will provide water to multiple users across the Wairarapa, including agricultural, environmental, industrial and urban.

The Lewis Tucker Report recommends a 12 month program of work to reach a more accurate conclusion before a decision can be made to apply for consents, engage with construction contractors and negotiate water supply agreements.

Wairarapa Water Ltd Chair Tim Lusk says the report is a substantial piece of work by an independent advisor and a panel of subject matter experts.

"The report's findings validate the previous work by GWRC and have strengthened the case for further work to be done on the scheme."

"WWL Board will now work with landowners, iwi, councils, water users, and other interested parties to plan and fund the next steps," Mr Lusk says.

Source: WWL's Web site

## **Attachment 3**

### **WWL's view on consenting**

Consenting a significant and complex project such as the Wakamoekau is always challenging and rightly subject to intense scrutiny by consenting authorities, funders and the public. It is also an iterative process, where the submitters (WWL) take on feedback from experts, peer reviewers and community and Iwi groups, before landing on a final proposal and submission process, or pathway.

Selecting the right pathway has become all the more complicated for the Wakamoekau as two key pieces of regulatory legislation have been evolving and emerging at the same time, and this has created regulatory uncertainty for the project, leading to delays in the originally agreed timelines.

The first was the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management, becoming operative in September 2020 and its highly directive policies around wetland and river loss. The second is policy direction and rules emerging out of the mediation of the Proposed Natural Resource Plan that GWRC first notified on 31 July 2015. WWL has been an appeal party on the issues of Water Harvesting and Storage.

Talking to numerous parties including the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, GWRC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) we are now starting to formulate a plan as to how we get to a point where we can apply for consent for the full scheme concept accommodating these new directives, policies and rules.

Source: This information is sourced from WWL's July 2021 newsletter

## Attachment 4

### Water Storage Scheme Development Ceases

Wairarapa Water Ltd announced today that development of the Wakamoekau Community Water Storage Scheme has ceased.

The scheme would have harvested the high winter flows of the Waingawa River into a 20 million cubic metre storage reservoir northwest of Masterton for release in the summer months.

Benefits of the scheme included putting the health of the waterways first, allocations for iwi aspirations, and bolstering the water supply to urban, industrial and farming users.

The scheme was expected to become a foundation building block in the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy and be central to accelerating land use change as a significant climate change response.

In July 2019 WWL was advised that the scheme was 'eminently consentable'. Since then the environmental planning framework has changed rapidly to render the scheme extremely challenging to consent. The time and cost consequences meant that further development is not viable at this time.

Chair Tim Lusk says "this decision will be very disappointing and deeply concerning to many who have worked closely with us over the last three years. Climate change is already impacting our communities and scale solutions need to be identified and implemented with some speed."

"All effort must now go to translating the recently adopted Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy into a convincing action plan. Environmental planning frameworks and funding must be aligned to support the strategy" he concluded.

WWL wants to assure everyone that the substantial development work completed by the project team can be taken forward when conditions allow. It is very hard to imagine a comprehensive climate change solution in the Wairarapa without community water storage.

Wairarapa Water Ltd wishes to deeply thank all who contributed along the way including landowners, the Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui a Rua Settlement Trust, the Rangitāne Tu Mai Ra Trust, Wairarapa Water Users' Society, Regional and District Councils, industry and the community at large.

It would also like to acknowledge the support, advice and funding provided by the Provincial Growth Fund, managed by Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

The enthusiasm of our local MP, Kieran McAnulty and Minister for Regional Development, Hon Stuart Nash have provided critical momentum.

As well as PGF support, funding has also been provided by water users, industry, local authorities and the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Tim Lusk, Chair Wairarapa Water Ltd

Source: Press Release issued by WWL 3 September 2021



## For Information

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT - UPDATE**

#### **Te take mō te pūrongo**

##### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Wairarapa Committee (the Committee) of Metlink activities and performance relating to Public Transport in the Wairarapa.

##### **Update on activities**

###### ***Rail***

###### *Wairarapa carriage refurbishment*

2. The light refurbishment of the Wairarapa Carriage fleet is progressing well. The SE carriage fleet is now complete, and three of the eighteen SW carriages have been completed. This programme is expected to be completed in early 2023.

###### *Network upgrades*

3. The opening of the Trentham to Upper Hutt double tracking project has been further delayed due to the latest COVID lockdown, as resources are required to come from Auckland to undertake the final commissioning. We are waiting for a proposed new commissioning date for the signalling.
4. The double tracking will increase the network capacity and ultimately reduce delays to the Wairarapa trains as a result of congestion in this single-track section.
5. Renewal of the track on the Wairarapa Line continues with inter-peak daytime train services replaced with buses. Work processes, systems, and resources are still being refined to achieve target production rates. The recent Covid Alert Level 4 shut down has also reduced productivity.

### *Park and ride upgrade – Featherston Station*

6. Featherston Station Park and Ride extension has been completed. We added 55 additional car parking spaces, improved access by adding a new footpath from Harrison Street West to the Featherston Station building and resolved the ongoing flooding issues within the existing carpark while also installing an upgraded stormwater system that pre-treats the carpark stormwater runoff.
7. The toilets at Masterton Railway Station are all but complete, with final touches expected to be completed in mid-September 2021.

### *Business case for longer distance rolling stock*

8. In February 2020, the Government announced \$211 million for further KiwiRail network infrastructure upgrades which included \$126 million for the elements required from Greater Wellington’s new train fleet business case. The most tangible elements will see new track and a second platform at Featherston, and a signalling system installed between Featherston and Masterton to provide for more frequent services. On 4 June 2021, the Crown announced an increase in the budget to complete this work to \$156m. The work is expected to be completed by 2024.
  - a KiwiRail has commenced design of these improvements.
9. The Detailed Business Case for Lower North Island Rail Integrated Mobility (LNIRIM) is nearing completion; this is for an improved passenger rail service (through new and additional rolling stock) on the Masterton to Wellington and Palmerston to Wellington rail corridors.
  - a If funding is approved, it will deliver:
    - i a proven solution that is highly reliable and provides dependable connectivity;
    - ii inclusive access and improved mobility, and hence unlock economic prosperity;
    - iii elimination of the risk of discontinuing public transport services due to life expired rolling stock;
    - iv significant reduction in car usage and CO2 emissions on these transport corridors.
  - b The investment is needed now because:
    - i the carriage fleet is approaching end of life;
    - ii we are already approaching full capacity on the Wairarapa Line;
    - iii we can’t keep up with our projected future growth;
    - iv we can’t provide a frequent enough service on longer lines to incentivise behaviour change – this is particularly an issue for Manawatu.
  - c The preferred solution consists of:
    - i procure 22 x 4-car tri mode (1600vdc + battery + CI engine) multiple units;
    - ii build new fleet maintenance facilities – proposed to be located in Masterton;

- iii increase peak services from the current 3 peak services each morning and afternoon, up to 7 peak services (4 additional). It is also proposed to increase the inter-peak services from the current 2 return services, up to 4 return services on the Wairarapa line.

**Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan**

- 10. Te Mahere Waka Whenua Tūmatanui o te Rohe o Pōneke Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan 2021-2031 (RPTP) was adopted by Council on 29 June 2021.
- 11. The RPTP is the primary planning and policy document for public transport in the Wellington Region and describes how we will deliver the high-level strategic direction for public transport.
- 12. There was significant interest in the draft RPTP, with over 2,750 individual submissions being received over the consultation period, and 50 speakers being heard during the Transport Committee’s hearings on the draft RPTP.

**Accessibility Charter**

- 13. On 9 September 2021, the Council’s Transport Committee formally adopted the Metlink Accessibility Charter (The Charter), subject to some drafting changes. Development of the Metlink Accessibility Charter was an agreed activity contained within the recently adopted RPTP.
- 14. The Charter provides a pathway to achieving Metlink’s commitments to increase accessibility for people with disabilities to the Wellington region’s public transport network. Adoption of the Charter will see Metlink officers working with the accessibility community, stakeholders and customers from 2021 to 2023 to develop an Accessibility Action Plan to identify priorities for improving accessibility across the network over the next decade.
- 15. A single coherent package of fundable actions from the Accessibility Action Plan will be developed for inclusion in the 2024 triennium’s Regional Land Transport Plan and Greater Wellington Long Term Plan.
- 16. The Wairarapa Committee will be informed of specific community and stakeholder engagement activities in the Wairarapa associated with development of the Accessibility Action Plan.

**Update on performance**

- 17. A PowerPoint presentation on Wairarapa public transport performance, issues and opportunities will be given at this meeting.

**Ngā kaiwaitohu  
Signatories**

Writers	Barry Fryer – Rail Assets Lead Emmet McElhatton – Principal Advisor, Policy
Approver	Scott Gallacher – General Manager, Metlink

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga  
Summary of considerations**

***Fit with Council's roles or Committee's terms of reference***

This is an information report on public transport matters in the Wairarapa.

***Implications for Māori***

There are no implications for Māori.

***Contribution to Annual Plan / Long term Plan / Other key strategies and policies***

This report provides an update on the delivery of public transport activities in the Wairarapa. Delivering public transport is a key activity in the Long-term Plan.

***Internal consultation***

No other departments were consulted in preparing this report.

***Risks and impacts: legal / health and safety etc.***

There are no risks arising from this report.