

## CO-CHAIRS REPORT

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Co-chairs

DATE 10 February for 17 February 2020 Committee Meeting 11

TOPIC Co-chairs report

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### General progress

This month we come back together after a two-month break, refreshed and ready for the big challenge ahead for us this year! We're all looking forward to moving into the next stage of work which is focused on discussion, analysis and deliberation. Our Committee will receive the report summarising our work over 2019 and this will act as a useful reference document in upcoming discussions.

Our first meeting will kick off the year by confirming our approach for 2020 and considering the water allocation topic in that context. We see this meeting as an important point in setting the tone for the year ahead.

In December, the Committee decided to bring a facilitator into our process, having previously discussed the concept in early 2019. This expertise will help us navigate the challenge of bringing diverse perspectives together to address complex issues and reach consensus. Throughout the year, we will check in with you on how to best use this expertise as our Committee's discussions evolve. Glen Lauder is now on board as facilitator and has been checking in with each member of the Committee. We look forward to Glen's involvement in our February meeting.

Please continue to share with us any feedback on the Whaitua process where you think the Co-chair function can help. We want to use the role to channel our Committee's feedback and make the process work as well as possible for all us, while also being fit for purpose for GWRC.

### Updates

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place mid-December to mid-February:

#### Subgroups

- The Comms & Engagement subgroup met on 5 February. They received an update on GW's recent comms activity, discussed summer engagement events and began to consider what the next phase of public engagement might look like.
- The Policy subgroup met on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. They received further updates and information on water quantity and allocation which will be a significant topic of conversation for the 17 February meeting.
- The Science subgroup did not meet over this period but will do so on 28 February. The Expert Panel has now been established and will meet with the project team for the first time on 12 February.

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

- The Co-chairs have met with Tim, Phill and Glen to provide feedback on progress, discuss the best use of a facilitator and help shape the Committee's agenda for the February meeting.
- Glen Lauder has joined us to provide facilitation expertise for our upcoming discussions as well as strategic input into the Whaitua process.
- New project team members – Pauline Hill (Te Hunga Whiriwhiri), Brett Cockeram (E-Sci) and Glen Lauder (Facilitator).
- Recruitment for the second Taranaki Whānui is in its final stages of confirmation and we are hopeful the new representative will be with us at our 17<sup>th</sup> of February meeting.

### **External Engagements**

- The Whaitua process was represented at several events over summer with the Co-chairs attending some of these.
- The Co-chairs and Gabriel will present on the Committee's work to the HCC councillors on 12 February. An update will be provided at the Committee meeting, since the presentation occurs after the time of writing this report.
- The Co-chairs will also provide a brief presentation to UHCC councillors on 13 February.

### **2020 Meeting Schedule**

To be discussed and decided at the 17 February Committee meeting is a proposal to shorten the length and increase the frequency of Committee meetings throughout the year. This could be a way to enable full Committee presence at meetings. This year's meeting schedule will be confirmed following this decision.