

## MEETING PAPER

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Co-chairs

DATE 13 September for 23 September 2019 Committee Meeting 8

TOPIC Co-chairs Report

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### General progress

A lot is happening in the freshwater management space at the moment, including consultation on the NPS for Urban Development and the recent release of the government's "Action for Healthy Waterways" proposal.

Our Committee is currently focusing on our urban waterways and today is our second of three meetings on this topic – this time looking at urban growth in Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt; the condition of the 3 waters network; and how these similar urban issues were investigated by the Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee. As a part of the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP), the Committee has the mandate to make recommendations to both GWRC and the territorial authorities on these topics.

The Committee's second field trip was held on 20 August in Upper Hutt. We learned about Wellington's water supply and storage, saw an innovative residential stormwater system, learned about toxic algae and visited a local stream restoration site. The trip was also a valuable opportunity to engage with the Project Team. Thank you to all who were involved in organising and presenting at a very successful field trip. We encourage Committee members to offer more opportunities for field trips or shorter site visits in future (which may sit outside of our scheduled meetings).

We are continuing to look for opportunities for interactive, two-way engagement both in the Committee meetings and in between meetings. Please continue to use the Sharepoint Discussion Boards, attend any field trips, read additional material and send through any technical questions to the Project Team to address.

### Updates

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

#### Subgroups

- The Policy subgroup met on 23 August and confirmed their Terms of Reference, the list of issues that came out of meeting 7, and made further progress on the Policy Framework based around the kawa.
- The Comms & Engagement subgroup met on 10 September. Their discussion included a review of the phases of engagement across the Whaitua process, a process for managing social media and the

commissioning of a marketing campaign (to raise awareness and to help shape the vision for the Whaitua). The group is also preparing to support Committee members with their own community engagement over summer.

- The Science subgroup will have their first meeting on 17 September. At meeting 7, the Committee acknowledged that the “science” work is one part of a wider knowledge-base that will inform our decision making.

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

- The Co-chairs continue to meet together monthly, plus fortnightly with Tim and Phill to check in on progress and shape the next month's agenda.
- Committee members can discuss their thoughts/concerns/etc. to the Co-chairs or else directly to the Project Team.
- After a false start last month, we are now definitely farewelling Councillor Paul Swain from the Committee today. Paul is not standing as a Regional Councillor in the upcoming election and therefore will be stepping down from the Whaitua Committee. Today is Paul's last Committee meeting and we thank him for the insights, energy and direction that he has provided over the past eight months.
- Mana Whenua are continuing to work with the project team to ensure that the appropriate Mātauranga Māori advice and support is provided to the Committee and the particular workstreams when required.

### **External Engagements**

- Tim Sharp and the Co-chairs spoke at the Mayoral Forum on 23 August. We provided an overview of the Whaitua TWT process to date and signalled the breadth of implications for councils and the need for good engagement over the next 1.5 years. Support was voiced by the Hutt Mayors and reflections from the Ruamāhanga Whaitua process were provided by the Wairarapa Mayors. Thanks to Mayor Guppy for facilitating this opportunity.
- At the Mayoral Forum, an invitation was made for a similar presentation to new councillors/Mayors after the election. We have decided to use this avenue to engage with new councillors/Mayors, rather than a letter to each candidate as was proposed at Meeting 7.
- Kara has been meeting informally and formally with councillors, Mayors and CEOs to discuss and provide updates on the activities of the Committee.
- Louise spoke to the Makara/Ohariu Community Board on 5 September and introduced them to the Whaitua process.