

WORKSHOP NOTES

SUBJECT	Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara workshop notes – Terawhiti/Makara-Ohariu and Mangaroa/Pakuratahi – rural issues
WHEN	Wednesday 20 January, 9.30am-4.30pm
WHERE	NZ Deerstalkers Association, Thorndon
ATTENDEES	Sam, Ros, Pat, Pete, Tui, Anya, Louise, Zoe (morning only), Roger and Gabriel
APOLOGIES	Sean, Jonny, Quentin, Hikitia, Naomi and Wayne
PROJECT TEAM	Tim, Phill, Glen, James, Penny, Fleur, Denise, Richard, Emily T., Onur, Jamie, Alastair (morning only)

Agreements in principle and actions

KEY

D = decision

A = action

PT = project team

R = idea for drafting a recommendation

General process issues

A: PT Review the NOF tables and make the trends more obvious.

A: PT to provide advice on where the gaps are in the national regulations, with a focus on whether the PNRP rules are more stringent and could still apply.

A: PT to provide a project timeline, which shows when the TKT material will be integrated into material to support drafting the WIP.

A: Roger to meet with Tim and Phill to discuss what is needed in this project timeline, including the development of key milestones.

A: Project team, Anya, Pete and other members to produce a draft WIP structure/ contents together and circulate it to the full Committee within the next 2 weeks.

R: A governance group, possibly cross-agency, is set up post Whaitua that ensures actions in the WIP are implemented.

R: Develop a series of recommendations to promote the accessibility of data and information on water quality.

D: agreed in principle to all the following recommendations suggested by Jonny:

- More carrots and sticks for fencing and planting riparian zones and critical source areas. Let's make an ambitious target for this.
- More sticks for bad forestry practices (or more wielders of sticks if that's actually the problem).
- More dedicated resource to helping landowners protect our water.
- All GW-owned farms and forests to meet our recs within an ambitious but achievable timeframe.

Values for Terawhiti (South Karori, South coast, Makara and Ohariu catchments)

A: PT to request TKT's advice on a name for this area in addition to the name that the local community currently associates with.

D: Edits to the values & outcomes drafted by Louise:

- Add in the non-use values, biodiversity values, ecological values of the estuary and intrinsic values.
- Add a description about the river form/ natural character of rivers and streams and how these have been modified over time.
- Values need to be integrated with TKT values (which are yet to be confirmed by TKT) and brought into one document. Important to add in information from Morrie Love's document.
- Education of people to the original names of the streams, aids community connection to the rivers and streams, and mana whenua values.
- Makara beach is an important place to take kids rock pooling – important educational value.

Water quality environmental outcomes and actions

D: Accept tables in rural issues (including NOF attribute tables and actions), subject to discussion and additions below:

R: Long-term target attribute states for all NOF attributes is either A or the natural reference state.

A: PT to review attribute tables and provide advice as to the natural reference state and how these compare to the NOF attributes; i.e., which attributes have reference states greater than the NPS-FM A-grade target attribute state, and which ones have a reference state lower than the NPS-FM A-grade .

R: Increase GWRC resources in land management

R: GWRC and TAs to support resident groups and lifestyle landowners to improve environmental management. In particular, GWRC to facilitate and support the development of community catchment plans and also support for properties under 20ha. This would include identifying management options to address critical source, management of small streams, etc.

A: PT to provide advice on where the gaps are in the national regulations, with a focus on whether the PNRP rules are more stringent and could still apply.

R: GWRC to monitor and support landowner implementation of NPS-FM mandatory farm plans, subject to coming national direction on FMP implementation.

R: GWRC to ensure best land management practices *are implemented* on GWRC owned and managed land.

R: Septic tanks – GWRC and TAs work together on a septic tanks WOF system, with PT looking at drafting a recommendation similar to WCC Mayoral taskforce rec 23 for private laterals.

D: Adopt approach for permitted takes, as agreed by the small group summary wording – similar in approach to the Porirua WIP.

A: PT to provide a copy of the resource consent conditions imposed on the Makara wind farm, which relates to the provisions for on-going management of sediment.

Values for Mangaroa/Pakuratahi

D: Agreed on the following differences from Terawhiti:

- Contains regional and forest Parks – Kaitoke, Pakuratahi.
- Mangaroa peatland
- Potential for subdivision in Mangaroa (outside of Peatlands), small scale growth only as need to protect the remaining highly productive land.
- S360 regulations will result in more stock exclusion (more low slope land).
- According to the Agri database (2020) there are 2 dairy farms in the Pakuratahi catchment, but predominately lifestyle blocks dominate this catchment.
- Recreational activities, shooting and go-karting
- Both rivers are scheduled in the Natural Resources Plan as being important for trout spawning.
- More flooding in Mangaroa, but there is no flood management scheme, as in the Hutt River. Landowners are responsible for the flood management of streams on their land.
- More diversity of crops, including hops, being tried in Mangaroa valley.
- More exotic plantation forestry
- There are more swimming holes here
- Pakuratahi catchment has State Highway 2 running through it, this can be a source of contaminants; i.e., hydrocarbons and metals.
- Kaitoke Regional Park – Rivendell – Lord of the Rings tourist hotspot.
- Remutaka Cycle Trail also an increasing tourist hotspot.
- Pakuratahi catchment is a reserved water catchment area.

A: PT to check discharge consent for Te Marua stock car track. How are contaminants particularly metals managed?

Water quality environmental outcomes and actions

Additional outcomes needed from Terawhiti

D: Committee agreed all environment outcomes Terawhiti apply, plus

- Restore Mangaroa peatland to prevent degradation risk to water quality.
- Avoid development in areas with high risk of flooding as well as a focus on WSD permeability in new developments.

D: Agree as in Terawhiti that in the long term all attribute states are in the A state, or natural reference state.

R: There should be monitoring for the long-term goal of zero human e.coli in water, to report on progress of shift over time.

D: Agreed all actions in rural issues papers and Terawhiti strawperson (excluding coastal) comes across to Mangaroa plus the following recs on flooding, urban development and protection of wetlands and Mangaroa Peatland:

Urban development

R: Important in areas where there are urban growth to have strong recs to incorporate WSUD. (This is a Waitua wide recommendation).

R: Avoid urban development in areas with a high risk of flooding.

Mangaroa Peatland/ wetlands

R: GWRC provides assistance with the restoration of the Mangaroa wetland

R: GWRC to advocate to central government that rewetting wetlands are included in the ETS credits

R: GWRC to enable and support the rewetting of natural wetlands, and review PNRP rules and GW processes to ensure this is easier to do.

R: GWRC and TAs to provide incentives for landowners to restore wetlands.

R: GWRC to implement and enforce NPS, NES and PNRP rules in relation to the identification and protection of wetlands.

Forestry

D: Agreed to use Draft WIP recommendations developed by the forestry small group, and as set out in table in rural issues paper.

As reproduced from Issues Paper:

- Forestry proactive adviser support
- Increased compliance monitoring (e.g., +2 FTE's)

R: That rating is rebated or reduced for land set aside for water + ecological services, or other incentive tools. With caution that kawa would expect certain good practice of landowners.

Discussion

Meeting opening

Sam opened with a karakia.

Louise introduced Jamie (GWRC land management advisor) and Fleur (GWRC) (who is standing in for Matthew Hickman (Policy Manager GWRC)).

Louise covered the focus of the day to discuss rural issues in catchments (Terawhiti/Makara-Ohariu and Mangaroa/Pakuratahi) which are predominately used for pastoral farming. The Wainuiomata catchment, which also contains areas of pastoral land use, but has larger areas of intensive urban land use, is an area where many of the same issues apply.

General discussion on rural issues:

Integration of TKT values into papers

It was noted the mana wheuna values and outcomes papers, have not been confirmed by TKT.

Concern was raised by Committee members about the need to integrate TKT values into other work which is supporting the development of the WIP.

A: PT to provide a project timeline, which shows when the TKT material will be integrated into material to support drafting the WIP.

Impact of national direction and regulation on Whaitua recommendations

Does the Whaitua Committee need to draft recommendations for matters such as stock access and farm plans that are covered by the recent freshwater regulations and national environmental standards? Or, should the Committee focus on where the gaps are? i.e where implementing the national regulations will not achieve the necessary improvements in water quality.

GWRC has undertaken analysis as to differences between the national regulations and the current PNRP rules. Streams under 1m wide are not covered by the national regulations or the PNRP (unless part of a category 1 site) for stock exclusion. PNRP also covers access by stock to coastal areas and the national regulations do not. In other aspects regulations are more stringent than the current PNRP.

General agreement that regulations will be sufficient regarding stock access although needs to be assessed for small streams (<1m). GW to investigate the impact of horses on small streams.

Shortage of land advisors

Nationally there is a shortage of farm/ land management advisors. While central government have yet to announce what will be covered in mandatory farm plans, it is envisaged that farm plans will be prepared by private consultants but the government is yet to provide its direction on this. GWRC's role will most likely be to regulate and provide quality control to farm plans, alongside the support mechanisms for actions outlined in these plans.

Committee members acknowledged that they were unsure what influence they could have on addressing the massive skill shortage in rural sector, but did support recommending that GWRC increase it's resourcing of land management advisers and in forestry compliance in this Whaitua.

R: Increase GWRC resources in land management.

Working through Terawhiti template

Additions to Terawhiti template

Louise did some thinking to fill in values in Terawhiti strawperson template, these are very much in draft, for other committee members to add to.

Committee members suggested the following additions to the whakapapa description of Terawhiti:

- Clarify which catchments are covered by the Terawhiti template
- Ask TKT to suggest an appropriate name for this area, noting that Terawhiti was the name of the station, and the wider areas itself may have other traditional names.
- Describe how the landscape has changed, including loss of wetlands and native vegetation cover.
- Include the historic uses such as turanga waka around the Raukawa moana (cook strait).

Discussion on the following values:

- Add in the non-use values, biodiversity values, ecological values of the estuary and intrinsic values.
- That the whole coast has significant recreational, kaimoana and fishing values.
- Add a description on the river form/ natural character of rivers and streams and how these have been modified over time.
- Coastal values and uses should be distinguished on their own rather than grouped in with the catchment.
- Values need to be integrated with TKT values (which are yet to be confirmed by TKT) and brought into one document. Important to add in information from Morrie Love's document.
- Makara beach important place to take kids rock pooling – important educational value.
- That outcomes should be describing the long-term goal, specific and expecting innovation as well as the drivers for land use to change over 100 years.
- There are community values in the way lifestyle owners are using their land, restoration should be encouraged but many different uses still possible.

Discussion on outcomes:

- That the committee should be clear about the aspiration, though not setting medium term targets beyond the current understanding of achievability. Many kinds of opportunities can arise over the medium to long-term.
- Waterways are healthy – All attributes are in A state, or natural reference state over 100 years, (need to recognise that the natural reference state for some attribute states could be different from A state).
- Priority for actions are to reduce high levels of sediment and E.coli.
- Slow the flow – good catchment management, reduce flood risk
- Community awareness, connection and education
- Support community initiatives and community catchment groups.
- Restore and protect natural character

Target attribute states

- Clarified BAU is current policy state, plus climate change (e.g. PNRP rules are fully implemented).
- What is the difference between swimmability and E.coli attributes?
- The swimmability attribute is empty because are no designated recreational bathing monitoring sites within the Terawhiti area. Recreational bathing sites are selected based on

their popularity (visitorship), and are regularly reviewed. Some expected decline from current states in the BAU scenario is due to climate change (This is expanded on in the place based memos).

- Need to address sources of E.coli in the catchment, including using faecal source tracking where sources are not obvious.
- Need more discussion of MCI and fish values (This information is contained in the place based summary)
- Agreed the algal growth and MCI attribute states are good indicators of habitat health, this relationship needs to be made clear in the WIP as there are no habitat specific attributes in the NOF. The WIP will highlight the importance of habitat factors such as shade, fish passage, hydrological heterogeneity, woody debris etc. to ecological health.
- Rename and clarify the “barriers and risks” in template to “issues and drivers of change” incl. some place-based opportunities.
- Can the trends in the attribute tables be made clear. This is a key part of the argument for why certain actions need to be short-term priorities.

A: PT Review the NOF tables and make the trends more obvious.

Actions for addressing rural issues in Terawhiti/Makara-Ohariu

Short-term actions

- Jamie – one of the best opportunities to get gains in water quality in these catchments is to support community catchment groups and initiatives that bring community together and creates ownership of issues - e.g. Capital Kiwi project may drive afforestation of big land blocks.
- Broaden actions to include communication of current water state/ education and awareness.
- In Terawhiti – stock exclusion regulations, with the exception of a few farms, largely don't apply due to lack of low slope land. Farm plans will have influence on small streams. Desire to make sure those not covered by farms plans still have access to resources and ability to be supported through catchment planning.
- Would like to see coordination and networking across FEP activities.
- Mandatory farm plans likely to only apply to properties over 20ha. For properties under 20ha community catchment plans and engagement/facilitation of catchment groups need to be promoted.
- Clarification that category 1 waterbodies including estuaries will be protected.
- Septic systems – need advisory roles, and condition/performance testing. Whose role is it? Private landowner or Council? Who pays? GWRC already has rules in place, but difficult to enforce – re tracing high human E.coli readings back to an individual property. Councils to support incentives and education for landowners.
- Septic system obligations should have equity with what is expected of urban communities, in particular for cross-connections. Both should be put on to LIM reports.
- Wetlands – will be covered under farm plans. GWRC to ensure natural wetlands are protected, either via PNRP rules or NES-FM.
- Acknowledge wind farms, as land use, and that the tracking on the wind farms is potentially a source of on-going sediment.
- Shift the idea of the catchment planning action into the short-term.
- Noted that there is already an estuary restoration plan for Makara Estuary and a lot has already been achieved toward this.
- Include a data and information section in the WIP.

- Revegetation of erosion-prone land and riparian areas.

Long-term actions

- Agreed that the long-term target attribute state is either A or the natural reference state. The narrative matters, if A state cannot be met. Also, note that the target states will be reviewed every 10 years (when PNRP is reviewed).

A: PT to review attribute tables and provide advice as to which NOF attributes have a natural reference state, which is lower than the NPS-FM A target attribute state.

R. Long-term target attribute states for all NOF attributes is either A or the natural reference state.

Focal area Mangaroa-Pakuratahi:

Values for Mangaroa-Pakuratahi

The following differences between the Mangaroa/ Pakuratahi catchments and Terawhiti were identified:

- Contains regional and forest parks – Kaitoke, Pakuratahi
- Mangaroa peatland
- Potential for subdivision in Mangaroa (outside of Peatlands), small-scale growth potential only as need to protect the remaining highly productive land.
- S360 regulations will result in more stock exclusion (more low slope land).
- 2 dairy farms in total are located in the Mangaroa and Pakuratahi according to the agri-database, but more density of lifestyle blocks and their community use values.
- Recreational activities, shooting and go-karting
- Both rivers are recognised as trout spawning sites in schedule I of the Natural Resources Plan
- More flooding in Mangaroa, but there is no flood management scheme, as in the Hutt River. Landowners are responsible for the flood management of streams on their land.
- More diversity of crops, including hops, being tried in Mangaroa valley.
- More exotic plantation forestry
- There are more swimming holes
- Pakuratahi catchment as State Highway 2 running through it and contamination risk
- Kaitoke Regional Park – Rivendell – Lord of the Rings tourist hotspot
- Remutaka Cycle Trail also an increasing tourist hotspot
- Pakuratahi catchment is a reserved water catchment area

A: GWRC PT to check discharge consent for Te Marua stock car track. How are contaminants (metals) managed?

D: Committee agreed all environment outcomes Terawhiti apply, plus

- Restore Mangaroa peatland to prevent degradation risk to water quality.
- Avoid development in areas with high risk of flooding as well as a focus on WSD permeability in new developments.

Mangaroa peatland

- Currently farmed, attempts to re-wet peatlands don't count to ETS credits. Further subdivision on Mangaroa peatlands is unlikely to be approved due to natural wetlands. The

extent of the remaining wetland is not confirmed, as it needs to meet the definition under NES-FM as to what is a natural wetland.

- Note that restoration of the Mangaroa peatland is likely to improve water quality (esp. water clarity and nutrients). However, it has potential to cause flooding through changed hydrology on adjacent properties.
- UHCC has mapped the extent of the peatland, in their view.
- Extent of the Significant Natural Area (SNA) is known and being verified.
- Full extent of the natural wetland is unknown pending further assessment.

Forestry

D: Agreed to use Draft WIP recommendations developed by the forestry small group, and as set out in table in rural issues paper.

As reproduced from Issues Paper:

- Forestry proactive adviser support
- Increased compliance monitoring (+2 FTE's)

Sediment

- Sediment is an issue in the Mangaroa catchment at a localised scale. Areas where there is no stock exclusion results in streambank erosion, while pastoral land use of steep hill country can also cause erosion. The poor grade for suspended sediment (clarity) at the Mangaroa monitoring site, however, is primarily the result of tannins from the Waipango swamp and not from fine sediment.
- Horses can be a sediment risk where they are being confined to small blocks and adjacent to streams.
- Future water storage development must thoroughly address sediment management.

Target attribute states and actions to meet these targets

Agreed all actions in rural issues papers and Terawhiti strawperson (excluding coastal) comes across to Mangaroa plus the development of recommendations on:

- rewetting of Mangaroa peatlands and restoration of the remaining wetlands
- forestry
- avoiding urban development in areas of high risk of flooding

Acknowledged that a Mangaroa clarity target may need a caveat around the influence from the peatland. And refer to the Te Reo Māori name Waipango. Noted that if a wetland is also within a significant natural area (SNA) then this could be regulated to maintain and restore.

D: Agreed as in Terawhiti that in the long term all attribute states are in the A state, or natural reference state.

R: There should be particular monitoring for the long-term goal of zero human *E.coli* in water, to report on progress of shift over time.

Noted that there are national studies underway investigating the relative human health risks from a range of micro-organisms and sources, this may lead to a change in the way human health risk is measured and understood in the future.

Agreed that there was no need to address the impacts of mountain biking, as their impacts are minimal and localised.

Process issues

- Roger – Do we have a project plan/GANTT chart – steps in the process/ what needs to be completed by when, are there key feedback loops? Tim released a schedule of meetings and topics in December 2020.

A: Roger to meet with Tim and Phill to discuss what is needed in this project timeline, including the development of key milestones.

- What is the framework of the WIP? Could Committee have a content page?

A: Project team, Anya, Pete and other members to produce a draft WIP structure/ contents together and circulate it to the full Committee within the next 2 weeks.

Discussion on accessibility of water quality data

As discussed in previous Committee meetings, there is a desire from Committee members to ensure that all publically available water quality data information is available on one, easy to operate, platform. GWRC advisors explained this is a national problem, and there are a number of national initiatives looking at creating one stop shop for water quality data. In the future this could be LAWA, however, in its current form the LAWA site contains only limited data. Rec 46 from WCC mayoral taskforce also promoted the use of open source data.

R: Develop a series of recommendations to promote the accessibility of data and information on water quality.

R: That rating is rebated or reduced for land set aside for water + ecological services, or other incentive tools. With caution that kawa would expect certain good practice of landowners.

Wainuiomata and Orongorongo rural catchment values

Gabriel led a session on the values of the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo rural catchment, which identified the following:

Wainuiomata

- Increase in people moving for lifestyle reasons, not always affluent land owners.
- Traditional farming still occurring
- Wainuiomata – means “big water body”. Also, the tears of Mata
- Most of urban Wainuiomata was a swamp or floodplain
- Lack of infrastructure for increased urban development.
- Black Creek is an on-going flooding issue. Do we look at managed retreat in that area?
- Ever growing population, young professions moving in.
- Less intensive farming compared to Mangaroa
- Few orchards, including an olive grove.
- Wainuiomata Scout camp
- Rural community are very organised. Concerns around flood management, impacts on properties and livestock.
- Moores valley has had high E.coli levels, likely due to septic tanks and stock access to streams. Gordon George Hutt City has done work on that.

- Highly valued trout fishery
- High native fish values due to being close to the coast (similar to Makara).
- Stock exclusion regulations apply, but difficulty to maintain fencing due to flooding and erosion. If they can't meet the regulations (e.g. fence) then can't put stock in that area. Can use hot wire fence in flood prone area for large animals (horses, stock)
- GWRC Flood management works on Wainuiomata River – resource consents are being reviewed, but may not extend into the rural area.
- Management of cleanfill site a possible issue for water quality, but closely monitored, due to high public interest.
- Wainuiomata rural areas potential for urban growth (greenfield sites), however inadequate wastewater infrastructure to cope. All new developments require storage for wastewater which is pumped out when wastewater system is at off-peak volumes due to lack of capacity.
- GWRC to provide support to landowners to undertake pest management as well as riparian planting.
- Need to support natural restoration of riparian areas, including investigating rates rebates and other financial incentives.

Orongorongo catchment

- Both Wainuiomata and Orongorongo are water catchment areas
- Catchpool forest park, significant recreational values.

Gabriel closed with a karakia at 4.30pm.