

MEETING PAPER

SUBJECT	Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee workshop notes
WHEN	Wednesday 26 May 2021, 9am-5pm
WHERE	GWRC Council Chambers (100 Cuba St, Wellington)
ATTENDEES	Louise, Pat, Zoe, Sam, Pete, Anya, Roger (afternoon), Tui (from 10am), Hikitia, Gabriel (from 3.30pm)
APOLOGIES	Sean, Kara, Jonny, Ros, Wayne, Naomi
PROJECT TEAM	Phill, Emily, Tim, Mark, Brent, James, Mike G., John, Glen, Matt, Geoff, Emily T.

26 May workshop notes – community connection, rural issues, wetland

Opening

Zoe opened the workshop with a karakia.

Update on previous actions:

- Engagement with Porirua City Council – Tim progressing this through Al Cross at the GM level.
 - Potential opportunity for the Whaitua Committee to present at an upcoming council workshop.
 - Need to establish process for long term engagement and implementation, working at the officer level to ensure WIP recommendations are incorporated into TA operations.
 - Ngāti Toa have a role to play in Porirua and their leadership should also be engaged.
- UHCC, HCC and WCC are providing feedback through the officers on the project team as well as directly through councillors.
- GW team working with plan team to include regional council functions within recommendations.
- Recommendations to include where they are likely to be implemented (e.g., regional plan, RPS, district plan, consent condition, asset plan, etc.).
- Content writer – unable to contract someone for this task without a clear brief, little time remaining to bring someone on board.
 - Important for the entire document to be written in plain language so that it is consistent and accessible to a public audience, someone to convey the Committee's voice.
 - A Committee member (with the support of the Committee and project team) will take the lead on working on the structure of the WIP and drafting narrative content. An editor/proofreader will be contracted to review the document at the end.
 - Narrative can include bullet points or paragraphs when appropriate but the structure should be consistent for each chapter.
- Te Kāhui Taiao is working on finishing Te Mahere Wai to support the target setting process in June. Important to see what can be endorsed and included between the WIP and Te Mahere Wai.
- Community feedback on the WIP – the project team has limited capacity to support engagement events at this stage.

- Committee members can organise informal engagements with their communities to sense check the direction of their key recommendations.
- Committee to send a newsletter inviting those who have engaged with the Committee to provide feedback via email. Further opportunity for people to participate during the plan change process and through the web WIP.
- Continue representing community input through discussions.
- Suggestion for future Whaitua Committees to have a designated comms person on the project team to ensure robust engagement is a priority.

A: PT to circulate feedback from TAs on draft WIP recommendations.

A: PT to schedule additional meetings on the following topics:

- Remaining water quantity issues
- Remaining sections of WIP that haven't been discussed
- Reviewing recommendations that have been highlighted to return to
- Spatial areas ahead of target attribute setting workshops

A: Pete to lead Committee members in crafting narratives for each section of the WIP. PT to engage an editor to review the WIP.

A: Pat to organise community engagement events in the Hutt Valley to seek feedback on key WIP recommendations, with support from Committee members.

A: Zoe to write a newsletter for the Whaitua mailing list to provide an update on the current phase of the process and invite feedback on key WIP recommendations. This could be some form of summary or specific recommendations, process TBC.

Improving community connection

Recommendation 44

- No need to name community groups, we want to connect and network people to help them feel part of the whole.
- Houghton Valley could be used as an inspiring case study.
- Rationale to include that the purpose of urban groups is to grow kaitiaki and establish links in the community.
- Funded coordinator role needed to support mana whenua and community groups.

D: Remove names of particular groups, "such as the 'Friends of' groups, farmer groups, the Houghton Valley community and many others to adopt and care for local streams."

D: Add supporting community catchment groups with lab analysis. Include supported coordination for connecting groups.

Recommendation 45

- Integration and sharing of data to include community and official collected data, enable individuals to come to their own conclusions. Need centralised authority to collect, maintain and provide access.
- Community groups are hyper local and not catchment wide. Need structure that supports mana whenua engagement, plays to strengths of groups and provides context for wider catchment scale picture.

- GW responsible for playing a whaitua wide coordination role, include links to land management and volunteer strategy.

D: Add GW to facilitate or coordinate.

D: Change language away from 'catchment scale' groups to any local groups.

D: PT to explore connections to Wellington Water, Three Waters Reform, Mountains to Sea and the GW volunteer strategy for a cross-whaitua organisation.

Recommendation 46

- Needs to be reframed in positive, empower community groups that are already doing good work and inspiring others to take action, bottom up approach. Add picture to show what this looks like in practice.
- Help communities navigate engagement with mana whenua as they don't want to overstep rangatiratanga.
- Quentin suggested the idea of an attribute for community connection, consider way to express this as a target.

D: Remove recommendation 46, include elements in 44 such as structural support, empowering and inspiring groups.

D: Retain the outcome/ measure of success in the narrative.

D: Reframe any engagement with mana whenua in the positive.

Recommendation 47

- Community led approach is the way forward, need to provide collateral for groups to use to spread the word in their communities, including info about their local stream and its current state.
- Curriculum development needed in addition to educational campaigns.

D: Change wording to "GWRC enable communities to develop educational campaigns starting by 2024." This should include the themes and information about the state of waterways.

R: Anya to draft a separate recommendation about mana whenua and councils to bring the local awa into curriculum and support the growth of the next generation of kaitiaki in a coordinated way across the whaitua.

Recommendation 48

- Clarified intent of recommendation to connect groups at the governance level. Partnerships and mechanisms are needed.
- If mana whenua are adequately resourced, it will support the right people in the right places. Mana whenua will need to work in conjunction with communities as they can't do everything alone.
- Resourcing is a challenge because mana whenua capacity is stretched. Equity needs to be addressed.
- Te Kāhui Taiao are discussing governance level recommendations, which will come through Te Mahere Wai.

D: Remove recommendation 48, include elements in 44.

R: TKT to draft a recommendation about providing resourcing for mana whenua involvement in catchment community groups.

D: Include a visual diagram in the WIP showing community catchment groups and their catchment plans.

Recommendation 49

- Remove references to specific community groups as there are other communities with streams buried beneath landfills.
- Technical support for community groups and opportunities for daylighting to be addressed in general recommendations.

D: Remove recommendation 49, singling out the Houghton Valley group.

D: Include engagement and support for community groups living around or intending to remediate current and historic landfills in recommendations on contaminated land.

Recommendation 50

- Need to develop a template for catchment plans to give groups something to build on.
- Help community groups focus their efforts. The problems can become overwhelming but help them understand it's not their responsibility to fix public pipes.
- GW and Wellington Water need to be transparent about the work they are doing and report on it so that the roles are clearly understood by all parties. Show partnership to clear the water.
- GW to provide information on streams for community groups to tap into. Online template to include map, pictures, story, etc.
- Catchment plans help link objectives with goals and actions that people can take.
- Need to shift the balance of power between councils, mana whenua and communities. GW should not lead catchment groups but facilitate and support their development, provide the overarching governance.
- Don't need to tell communities what to do but give some guidance of what could be done through the catchment plan template.

D: No changes.

Recommendation 51

- GW to develop better access to monitoring tools and training. A water quality monitoring course already exists but should be expanded.

D: Remove recommendation 51, include elements in 44 such as tools and training, and mātauranga monitoring.

Recommendation 52

- There is already a lot of data but it may not be user friendly. Need to join up data sets held by GW and Wellington Water in one place that is accessible.
- There is a Water That Counts initiative to address this issue, a government think tank support group. It's a pilot programme in the Owhiro catchment looking at a range of issues and the accessibility of information to build a platform for data sharing with input from mana whenua and community.
- Important to connect these local efforts with the wider whaitua.
- Looking at platforms that are available nationally to trial and understand the investment required.

- Community groups may have access to data but are unable to make sense of it. Need option for raw data so that people can interrogate it if they are interested as well as high level summary info.

D: Change wording to “GWRC work with mana whenua and catchment groups to make data easily available and communicated in a user centred way.” Highlight wording to revisit.

Recommendation 53

- Integrate with TKT recommendations about monitoring measures for participation, connection and access. Revisit within the context of attribute tables.

D: Highlight recommendation 53 for target attribute setting discussion to decide whether it’s important to include.

Recommendation 54

- Headwater streams are order 1 and they flow into order 2, then order 3, etc. For example, Te Awa Kairangi is order 6 and Kaiwharawhara is order 4. It’s a classification tool used for aerial surveys.
- Brent and Vanessa are working on an index of small streams, which will be an ongoing programme.
- There is a high number of order 1 streams to name, whereas order 2 starts with slightly bigger streams.
- Need to explain what stream orders mean or simplify wording.

D: Simplify wording of recommendation 54 along the lines of “Name unnamed streams, starting with larger streams and working to smaller streams.”

Recommendation 55

D: No changes.

Recommendation 56

R: TKT to write a recommendation on water warriors for the Committee to review. Highlight for revisiting.

Managing ourselves – Rural issues

A small group of Committee members met with GW land management officers on 19 May to work on refining the rural recommendations and how to support communities to achieve national requirements. They identified gaps that are not currently covered and things that are specific to this whaitua.

Recommendation 92

- Needs to be reworded to communicate that GW will engage with community groups to develop catchment plans and build connections rather than a top down approach.
- Recommendations about catchment plans should be consistent between urban and rural areas, but can be included in separate sections of the WIP.
- Points that are specific to farm environment plans should be its own recommendation.
- Mana whenua outcomes need to be considered for the rural recommendations.

D: The wording of the first two points (“support catchment planning and action groups and support development of catchment plans”) to be made consistent with the wording of urban recommendations on catchment groups and plans. The latter two points (“help link farmer action and help small block owners link their actions to catchment plans”) to be rewritten as its own recommendation – split points 1 and 2 from 3 and 4.

A: PT to consider mana whenua outcomes in relation to all rural recommendations, as consistent with the urban section.

Recommendation 93

- Important to ensure that farm plans are quality (not a box-ticking exercise), connected and that there is sufficient resourcing to support them.
- Some actions will be required by law but there may be other actions that we want to encourage as part of voluntary land management advice on how to manage areas well, e.g., fencing small streams and gullies, support for riparian planting.
- Funding programmes exist but there is minimal support in this whaitua. Funding between rural and urban communities should be equitable.

D: Remove second paragraph and include Freshwater Farm Environment Plan (FW-FEP) in recommendation 96.

Recommendation 94

- Providing local data applies to urban and rural communities, tag both in the online WIP. Note that access to data is important to rural landowners.

D: PT to restructure recommendation about data accessibility that applies to both rural and urban communities.

Recommendation 95

- Need to be clear what exemplar good practice looks like.
- GW should be applying best practice to the land they own but they are falling short – this applies to all GW owned land types, include examples.
- This sends an important message to communities. The public is less likely to listen to GW if they don't see them change their own practices.

D: Reword recommendation 95 and apply GWRC implementing best practice on all GWRC owned land, including farms, forestry blocks, wetlands, golf courses, etc. Move to a section with a broader scope than forestry.

Recommendation 96

- Support for the shorter version of this recommendation, important that there is sufficient funding to implement farm plans.
- Compliance only applies to regulatory requirements. Need a carrot and stick approach and emphasise there will be consequences for non-compliance.

D: Use Jamie's wording and integrate with recommendation 93, focus on sufficient resourcing to support and enforce compliance.

D: Include a visual diagram in the WIP of the hierarchy of Whaitua objectives, then rural catchment plans, then FW-FEPs.

Recommendation 97

- Erosion and sediment are an issue in the rural and urban environment.
- Need on-the-ground support for community groups where there is traction and include examples, e.g., Wainuiomata.

- There is a well established programme for erosion management and a strict criteria where funding applies.
- Include revegetation to return catchments to a more natural state, slow flood flows, benefits for carbon sequestration and biodiversity, creates a native bird corridor.
- Poplars and willows are a good anchoring tool while native vegetation gets established.

D: Change wording to “GWRC support and incentivise landowner-led revegetation projects, including natives.” Include carbon sequestration benefits in the narrative.

Recommendation 98

- Currently don’t have data on whether horses are having a significant impact on water quality.
- Kawa principles encourage people to do best practice whether or not we have data to support it, start with the responsibility of the landowner.
- Horses intensively graze and are kept on the same paddock, sometimes by a stream.
- Data will support community ownership and make people more likely to take action to keep horses out of streams.
- Need education on the impact of horses to be part of the communications strategy in rural communities.

D: Use Jamie’s wording, remove phrase “through catchment planning.” Add “existing advisory and funding programmes.” Change order of sentences to start with supporting good practice, then investigating the impact of horses on water quality.

Recommendation 99

- Change date from 2025 to 2023 to put some urgency on this recommendation. Start with more capacity and capability, then work on compliance with forestry regulations. Important to have incentives to encourage best practice.
- There is currently insufficient resourcing for harvesting plans to be supported or monitored.

D: Add recommendation 99 to 100 and include harvesting plans. Change date for GW to provide sufficient support by 2023.

Recommendation 100

- Need for proactive advisory support, applies to all professional standards.

D: Change wording “to provide sufficient pro-active advisory support, including to ensure all forestry operators are aware of relevant regulatory requirements and good practice by 2023.”

A: Highlight for Committee to return to section on professional standards for painters, developers, plumbers, forestry operators, etc. and apply a consistent approach.

Recommendation 101

- Restorative processes can be applied to other activities besides forestry where non-compliance is an issue.

D: Change “tools” to “mechanisms.” Reword recommendation to be general and not only apply to forestry.

Recommendation 102

- Support for septic systems should be similar to inspections and maintenance on urban properties where costs are added to rates.
- Catchment plan to include investigation of E.coli from human waste and the impact on water quality.

D: Use Louise's wording and change to "GWRC advise rural landowners to have well-functioning septic systems," including element of information and education.

Protection and restoration of natural wetlands

*Used tracked changes version provided by Pam and Philippa, which has been updated in the Draft WIP.

Recommendation 103

- ETS includes forestry as a mechanism to sequester carbon, but not wetlands. Advice that wetlands be added.

D: Change wording to "GWRC to advocate to central government that the protection and rewetting of peatland, whether or not it is currently a functioning wetland, is included in the Emissions Trading Scheme."

Recommendation 104

- GW supports areas identified as natural wetlands but not areas that have become modified and degraded so they are no longer considered wetlands.
- There are very few natural wetlands left and they are an important nutrient trap to manage discharges.
- Need land management support for people applying for resource consents so they are not put off from the process.
- Include wording "restore the mauri of former wetlands."

D: Change wording to "GWRC to enable, support and incentivise the best practice for rewetting and restoring the mauri of former natural wetlands, and ensure barriers to this are removed."

Recommendation 104a

- Suggested an additional recommendation specific to Mangaroa as an opportunity where the Whaitua Committee could make a difference, keep it separate to highlight the importance.
- Recognise there are about 200 private landowners in this area that will need to be engaged with.
- To be further considered during FMU discussions.

D: Add recommendation, "GWRC to advocate for, support and incentivise the protection and restoration of the wider Mangaroa Swamp." Second part of the sentence ("recognising that degraded peat can lead to water quality degradation and the release of carbon") to be added to the narrative.

Recommendation 105

- Not suggesting anything outside of BAU. Existing wetlands are being prioritised through funding, which could be increased to implement and enforce rules.
- Possible to waive resource consent fees, add incentive to wording of 104.

D: Remove recommendation 105, which is BAU and resourcing is covered in 106.

Recommendation 106

D: Change wording to “GWRC to increase resourcing available to implement and enforce the NPS, NES and PNRP rules in relation to the identification, protection and restoration of wetlands.”

Recommendation 107

- There are a number of wetlands that have not been scheduled. It will be more powerful if they are added to the plan so that policies and protection will apply to them.
- Some wetlands have not been scheduled due to degradation or the need for stock exclusion.
- Schedules can be updated during the plan change process as they are identified.
- Landowners may not be comfortable with councils coming onto their properties.
- Revisit and add a timeframe.

A: Highlight recommendation 107 and 108 to revisit after PT checks implications with land management.

D: Change wording to be consistent with recommendation 108.

Recommendation 108

- The full extent of wetlands at the Parangarahu Lakes has not been scheduled. Headwater wetlands are currently open to stock and need fencing.
- Need to proactively engage with landowners and to bring them along on journey.
- Parangarahu Lakes is its own spatial area and could have targets to driver greater management.
- Solution needs to be equitable across urban and rural landowners, provide support, incentives and consequences for both.

D: Change wording to “GWRC to engage with landowners of wetlands in the headwaters of Parangarahu Lakes and these should be scheduled in the PNRP by December 2024 with assistance provided to landowners to protect and restore these wetlands.”

Recommendation 109

- Outstanding wetlands have the highest protection in the plan, then significant and everything else.
- Contiguous waterbodies should all have the same designation and be lifted to the higher classification, i.e., the Parangarahu Lakes and wetlands should both be deemed significant.

D: Change wording to “GWRC to schedule newly identified wetlands that are found to be contiguous with significant or outstanding waterbodies, and be assigned the same designation.”

A: PT to provide a map of outstanding waterbodies and summary of wetlands regulations for Committee to review when the wetlands recommendations are revisited.

Recommendation 110

- Consider where wetlands could be developed or restored, such as RiverLink project.

D: Change wording to “GWRC to seek opportunities to develop and restore wetland habitat when managing and designing flood protection works and developing green spaces.” Link with wording in flood management section for consistency.

Recommendation 111

D: Change wording to “GWRC to map wetland as required by the NPS-FM by the December 2024 PNRP plan change.” Highlight to revisit with more information on implications from land management.

Gabriel closed the workshop with a karakia.