

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee

Meeting

23.03.17

5 – 9.00pm

Paremata-Plimmerton Rugby Football Club, Pascoe Avenue, Mana

Summary

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Workshop Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee:

Attendees Barbara, Diane, David, Jennie, Larissa, John G, John M,, Richard, Sharli-Jo, Stu (Chair), Warrick

Apologies: Dale

Project Team:

Alastair (Project Manager), Brent, Grace, Hayley, Isabella, Jim, Jon, Kara, Keith, Raewyn, Suze

Observers & Presenters:

- Phil Barker and Glen Lauder (Cultivate Partners, observing for research under Our Land & Water National Science Challenge) and team
- Leana Barriball (Communications & Resource Management Manager, Te Rūnanga Toa Rangatira)
- Ton Snelder (Land Water People)
- Ned Norton (CMP)
- Hohepa Potini (CMP)

Members of the Public:

Jenny Brash, Daran Ponter

Workshop purpose The purposes of this workshop were to:

1. Committee generate their own, sound, shared understanding of consensus for TAO PW
2. Committee decide about commissioning a Porirua document on decision-making process for consensus

3. Committee are aware of and comfortable with the BAU scenarios
4. Committee are aware of and comfortable with WMUs as they stand
5. Committee are comfortable with and confirm the proposed content of land and water use practices and other key content in scenarios
6. Committee are comfortable with and confirm the proposed processes to identify remaining key content of scenarios

The purposes were achieved.

Committee Decisions and actions to do

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Committee Decisions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee’s understanding of consensus will be articulated in the consensus-decision making document (see Action 1 below) and further Committee conversations had <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Committee need to agree what consensus practically means in this context within the overall parameters of the Terms of Reference 2. The BAU is approved to pass to the modellers. 3. The updated WMUS are approved to pass to the modellers. 4. The scenarios material as presented at 23.3.17 plus the recommendations from tonight are approved to pass to technical experts. 5. Committee oversight (Stu, John G, John M and Diane) will be built into the various streams of technical work to finalise scenarios and the outcomes reported to Committee |
| Actions: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project team create Committee document on consensus decision-making, - using the decision tree/flowchart, for Committee feedback, by the next Committee meeting 2. Project team add a standing item to Committee agendas: short report-back by project team and Committee on conversations and other engagement with key partners & public. 3. Project team find methods to look into on stocking rates and potential perverse outcomes from land use change to lifestyle block farming, for consideration in later policy preference work. 4. Ensure rainwater harvesting in the scenario modelling and double check policy bucket list – project team 5. Project team compile all scenarios material into one package; send to Committee by email and to modellers. 6. Project team, working with John M, John G, Stu, Diane, design processes for their involvement in remaining technical work to flesh out scenarios. Circulate by email, by next Committee meeting. |

Meeting notes

Karakia by Hohepa Potini

Session 1 – Consensus Decision-Making

(Alastair Smaill, Greater Wellington Regional Council)

See handout in Whaitua Committee [Shared Workspace](#)/GW [OpenSpace](#)

Session purposes:

1. Committee generate their own, sound, shared understanding of consensus for the TAoPW process
2. Committee decide about commissioning a Porirua document on decision-making process for consensus

Stu introduced the session, observing that Committee are entering the stage of the process where real decisions will be made, that these will not be easy to make, and that they need to endure. He emphasised the importance of being clear about consensus, being comfortable standing behind Committee decisions both at individuals and as a collective.

Alastair re-acquainted Committee with some high-level definitions and concepts of consensus, including a decision-making “tree” or flowchart diagram that has been used in the Ruamāhanga. Discussion followed, and the key points are below.

When consensus is meaningful	Committee’s Terms of Reference provide a high-level statement of consensus “everyone agrees”. Tonight’s session is to give this flesh for the practical work of the Committee. Consensus is easy in abstract and becomes meaningful when hard decisions need to be made – we are starting now. Key moments are when Committee cannot reach consensus or when people are absent.
Process if no consensus among the Committee	If the Committee cannot agree, there will be some iteration around the left-hand side of the flow / tree diagram to identify what is driving the lack of consensus and whether the issue/s can be addressed. If consensus cannot be reached, the proposal would go to Te Upoko Taiao for recommending (or otherwise) to the full council. They would be likely to use the material produced by Committee, any advice from Committee and modelling evidence as a part of the decision-making process. If Committee are disagreed at principle level, they need to make best endeavours to find consensus. Disagreement at a finer level of detail can be treated differently where there is in-principle agreement. The key is to get sufficient detail in the advice that GWRC can pick up the instruction and execute the Committee’s intent. Where the Committee’s draft WIP content passes to the plan writers, it’s anticipated that the writers will be clarifying what the Committee meant. Once the WIP is notified (the Schedule 1 RMA process has been initiated) the decision-maker role is taken by commissioners and the Committee’s role ceases.
Decision	Committee agreed that the decision tree / flow-diagram applied to Porirua and should be used.

After this there was a discussion to identify the Committee’s understanding of what consensus means in this context. The flip-charts are at Appendix 1. Key points from the discussion are below.

Mandate from communities / public – plan?	There were several questions from members around the degree and substance of community engagement and its relationship with Committee’s mandate. For the purposes of a discussion about what consensus means, it’s useful to
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assume that engagement with the public and stakeholders has been done well.

As part of the decision-making Committee need to have some inputs of the community to consider alongside mana whenua advice, modelling advice etc.

There would be a consensus decision by Committee to do more if people were unhappy with the outcomes and outputs from that engagement.

Committee members emphasised that timing of engagement will be key, and identifying what we will ask of and tell to the communities and our stakeholders. People acknowledged existing planning for this but some felt it would be good to know about best practice as engagement with communities and stakeholders will have big implications for timing of the entire process.

In deciding what contributions are needed from TAoP communities and stakeholders (vs decisions that Committee make as proxies of the communities), Committee need to consider how much mandate they feel they have.

Alastair noted that the Waikato process had suffered from some engagement and consultation done poorly or insufficiently.

Communications will go out to as many of the public as possible, but Committee have a vital role as communicators within their own networks and communities. Members observed that this will be challenging, even with the core concept of decisions being by the collective not by individuals. Members suggested some specific support they could use, and Alastair said that there are many things PT can do to support Committee members in engaging with members of the public and their communities.

Engagement with partners

There was a theme of discussion around engagement with TAs and Ngāti Toa. People observed that the Committee members appointed as representatives technically did not need to take the decisions back to their “constituents”, but that this was a major risk to the process.

Alastair emphasised how GWRC was cognisant of this risk, and described some of the work to build and maintain dialogue at multiple levels within partner organisations (Wellington Water, TAs, Ngāti Toa).

Members commented the challenges of getting councillors aware and on board, and the merits of formal vs informal, frequent vs less frequent dialogue.

A regular report-back from PT and Committee members, on conversations and other engagement with key partners, would be valuable.

Decision

Committee agreed that the project team take the content from this session and write a TAoPW process consensus decision-making document, for Committee review.

Session 2 – Business As Usual Scenario

(Hayley Vujcich, Greater Wellington Regional Council)

See presentation and handouts in *Whaitua Committee* [Shared Workspace](#) / GW [Open Space](#)

Session purposes:

Committee are aware of, and comfortable with, the BAU

Hayley reminded the Committee of the purpose of BAU scenarios, which is to provide Committee with benchmarking information on what will happen to the catchment if we continue on current trajectories of activity. The purpose of tonight's short session is for Committee to decide whether the BAU can be passed to modellers. She talked through some key features of the BAU based on the [Map of current land use and BAU development](#).

Hayley emphasised that the developments marked on the map are not all confirmed: no decisions (e.g. under a District Plan) have been made yet to develop the hatched areas. While some of the material is relatively uncertain, it is the best available information and is sufficient for modellers to work with.

There was a question about whether PCC's timing reviewing the District Plan means it will lock in decisions before the Committee has produced the WIP. Alastair replied that the draft District plan will be issued in the second half of 2017, and that whitua committee advice can be incorporated in early 2018 before the draft District Plan is notified.

Decision Committee agreed that the BAU can go to the modellers.

Session 3 – Water Management Units – Amended Report

(Ton Snelder, Land Water, People)

See presentation and reports in Whitua Committee [Shared Workspace](#) / GW [Open Space](#)

Session purposes:

Committee are aware of and comfortable with WMUs as they stand

Ton Snelder (of LWP) talked through the essentials of the documents "[Addendum to Porirua FMUs Foreword March 2017](#)" and "[Addendum to Recommended Freshwater Management Units of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua](#)."

Classification of "urban" streams

The origin of the reassessment was Committee's request on 1st December 2016 that LWP reassess some of the stream classifications based on the Committee feeling that streams that were effectively urban had not been classified appropriately.

Ton recapped the conclusion from the first FMUs report.

Noting that the categorisations and thresholds must be methodically justifiable and "un-pickable", he outlined LWP's findings from the reassessment work.

The classification for 'rural' or 'urban' in the first FMU report was based on which of these land use types made up the greatest proportion of the catchment. LWP looked to see if analysis of water quality data could help establish what % urban land cover above a stream segment would determine the difference between 'urban' and 'rural' streams. This analysis was not conclusive; therefore a more subjective means of determining the two categories was needed. The River Environment Classification (REC) classification system uses a 15% threshold. The LWP analysis determined there is no material difference that justifies preferring another percentage other than the 15% used by the REC. Given that there is no difference in

	<p>the result but the REC classification reflects Committee’s understanding of the characteristics of the catchment, this one has been used to generate the updated FMUs.</p>
Methodology & techniques	<p>There were some questions from Committee about precisely how the classifications had been done (e.g. how streams had been segmented between confluences of successive tributaries). Members noted that this was a very detailed level inquiry, and that their questions were based on curiosity.</p> <p>Ton answered these questions while acknowledging the complexity and difficulty of explaining processes that rely unavoidably on scientific terminology and concepts.</p>
Adjustments and clarifications	<p>Ton explained that the blank areas on the FMU map (e.g. around the coast of Whitireia and Mana and Paremata areas) are due to modellers using the REC stream classification to identify streams and therefore sub-catchments to use in their analysis. The REC data set does not record streams in these areas, hence they were outside the analysis. Committee noted that the PT will adjust the maps by hand to incorporate the waterways not picked up at that resolution (by characterising the blank areas using the FMU zone definitions from the LWP report).</p> <p>Ton acknowledged that there is a distinction between fresh and salt water receiving environments and that this would influence the policy options. He noted that Committee could call Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua’s FMUs “WMUs” if preferred.</p> <p>Clarification that ‘administrative points’ are where limits are set for the catchment above and are not necessarily the location of monitoring.</p>
Future of WMUs	<p>There will be ‘lumping and splitting’ of WMUs later this year, as the Committee agrees the water quality objectives desired in each area and considers different management regimes for these.</p> <p>For example, the two arms of Porirua Harbour are currently defined as one management class, but if we decide to have different objectives for the two arms then our WMUs would need to be subdivided further.</p>
TAOP Whaitua Committee role	<p>Alastair reminded Committee of the Whaitua Terms of Reference and that activities exclusively in salt water (such as harbour dredging) are outside their terms of reference.</p> <p>The Committee’s’ focus is about how to manage the land impacting the water and how that drains into the harbour – so we will set objectives about the quality of the harbour water and then propose ways of achieving this.</p>
Decision	<p>The Committee agreed that the updated WMUS were a good improvement on the December 1 2016 version and approved them to go to the modellers.</p>

Session 4 – Scenarios

(Hayley Vujcich, GWRC)

See [presentation](#) and handouts in Whaitua Committee [Shared Workspace](#) / GW [Open Space](#)

Session purposes:

1. Committee are comfortable with and confirm the proposed content of land and water use practices and other key content in scenarios
2. Committee are comfortable with and confirm the proposed processes to identify remaining key content of scenarios

Hayley ran through the scenarios recommendations that the Project Team had prepared for Committee. These are gap filling the aspects of scenarios at Committee had questions about at 23.3.17 meeting, and further work with the CMP. (Refer slides 1-3 in presentation).

Hayley noted that this evening's goal was for Committee to approve the "bundle" of scenarios material to go to the modellers which would enable them to start their work.

She talked through:

The content of scenarios that will populate the matrix of 10 scenarios (excluding BAU) that Committee has been designing. (See handout [Finalising scenarios – table and change in land use map](#) and [HANDOUT Land use capability classification](#))

1. *"For all areas, what is improved and water-sensitive practice?"*

Outstanding practice issues, PT work and recommendations for:

- Wastewater network
- Urban development and stormwater options
- Riparian planting
- Stocking rates
- Forestry

2. *"For new urban, where is it? What kind of density?"*

- Process for fleshing out what is in the denser and more spread-out development areas in scenarios 3, 7, 11, 4, 8, and 12.

3. *"For all land use change and practice, when does it occur?"*

- Recommended methods for applying time factor to management options that do not have time yet

The following are key points from the discussion.

Wastewater network There was a variety of questions from Committee members about aspects of the current state of wastewater, and how the scenarios would approach wastewater. Questions covered: definition of overflows, seasonal sensitivity in overflows, ways to characterise overflows (frequency, duration, volume) and comparisons with international best practice, how the treatment plant's overflows would be handled in modelling.

Riparian planting, rural land use There were some questions about the assumptions behind riparian planting (effectiveness, durability and implementation). The CMP will use best-practice modelling approaches (including assumptions) to generate useful information for Committee. The Committee will then need to consider the "hows" of implementation during later discussions (e.g. around policy options).

There was a series of questions around changes to rural land use: stocking rates and perverse outcomes and rules around rural residential lifestyle farming. Agreed that the PT will look into how the modelling can provide information on these potential impacts and/or analysis for the policy selection work the Committee will do later.

Urban Development and stormwater options	<p>One member observed that rainwater collection had not been included in the modelling inputs. This was agreed to be the case and was a mistake to have on the ‘holding bucket list’, and would be included in the modelling.</p> <hr/>
Timing of change in land use and practices	<p>There were some Q&A, of which the key questions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to manage population statistics beyond 2043 (when predictions become much more crystal-ball gazing) • the scope for improving water quality sooner than 2025 or 2040 (especially given the need to maintain water quality and the imminence of development) • what trajectories could be used for improvement in practices (how much change, how fast, whether linear or with a hump of faster improvement) • how the Natural Resources Plan would describe the trajectories • how this all fits with the new Clean Water proposed guidelines
Things not tested through integrated modelling	<p>Hayley recapped the scenario aspects on which Committee will get information for its decision-making through other methods than the integrated modelling architecture. These include: the treatment plant, the potential impact of improving stormwater and trade waste management compliance on industrial sites (see ENPL-6-1296 or here from 02.03.2017 workshop).</p> <p>Committee were also referred to the handout “Management & Policy options not tested in scenarios but to revisit when exploring policy options” (ENPL-6-1347 or here). This is the holding pen for ideas raised by Committee over the last two years that needed to be parked so they can be picked up in the forthcoming conversations.</p>
Processes from here	<p>As there is some further technical work yet to do to provide the last details of the scenarios, this will be done between PT and modellers. (The blue box in slide 3’s diagram.)</p> <p>Alastair invited Committee members to put their hands up to be more involved in this work and report back to the rest of Committee (process to be determined). Stu, John G, John M and Diane are these members.</p> <p>Committee has successfully given enough direction tonight that the scenarios material can move from its hands to those of the technical experts. From here will be the technical work described above, but this will not involve full Committee.</p> <p>However, if any matters surface through the technical work that seem to go to the heart of Committee’s intent for scenarios, or make a material difference in information they will receive, these will be brought back to Committee. Two examples of technical work already earmarked to come back to Committee are the results of sensitivity testing for stormwater options in urban areas, and changing the extent / density of urban development.</p>

**Committee
Decisions**

1. The scenarios material as presented at 23.3.17 and the recommendations from tonight – is approved to pass from Committee to technical experts.
2. Committee oversight (Stu, John G, John M and Diane) will be built into the various streams of technical work and the process reported to Committee.

Any other business

- Richard noted that there would be logging activity happening at Transmission Gully in April and the committee fieldtrip could incorporate this
- Stu noted that he was unavailable for the next meeting and another chair would need to be selected.
- Stu congratulated the Committee on achieving a big milestone this evening in approving the scenarios package.

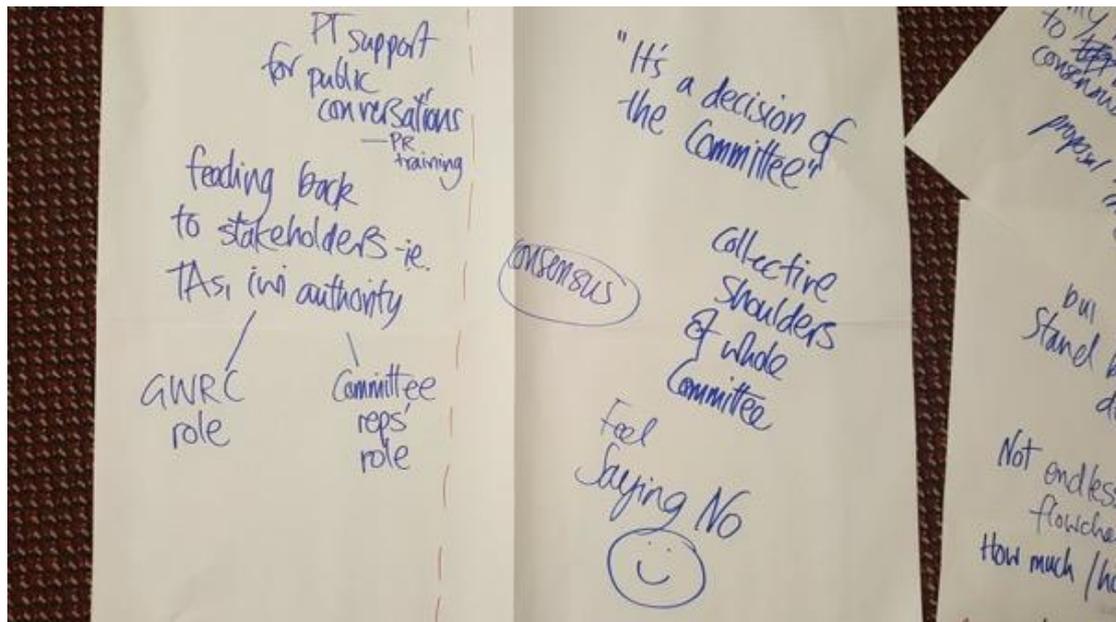
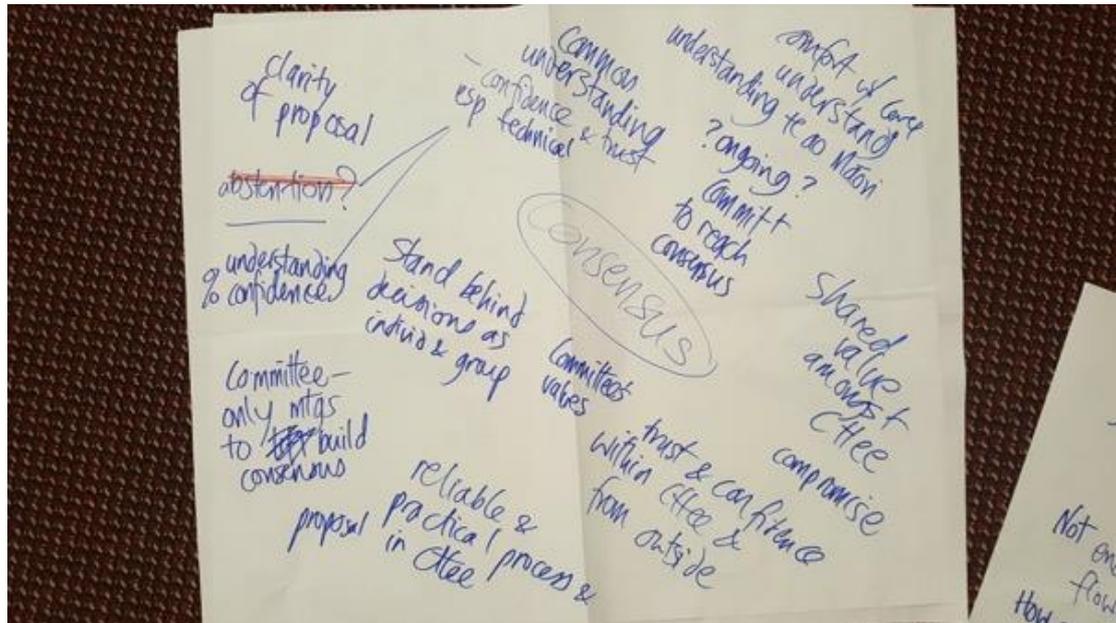
Hohepa gave the karakia.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

The next meeting of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is Thursday, May 4, 5 – 9pm.

Appendix 1

Flip charts from consensus discussion



≠ 100% agreement
 but ACCEPTANCE
 Stand behind outcome of
 decision

Not endless iterations on
 flowchart - pragmatism
 How much / how many - in document

* input from
 community: assume
 good job done?
 engagement &
 COMM process

understand &
 accept
 uncertainty

Significant sale of
 decision

principle disagreement vs
 mandate from constituencies
 detailed instructions for
 plan writers

TO R:
 "everybody agrees"

unpacking
 REPS: sort out risk of TAs
 flag ini stakeholders
 @ table

CONSENSUS