



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

16 March 2018

Environment Committee

Order Paper for the meeting of the Environment Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington on:

Thursday, 22 March 2018 at 9.30am

Membership

Cr Kedgley (Chair)
Cr Brash (Deputy)

Cr Blakeley
Cr Gaylor
Cr Laidlaw
Cr McKinnon
Cr Ponter
Cr Swain

Cr Donaldson
Cr Laban
Cr Lamason
Cr Ogden
Cr Staples

Peter Gawith

Ihaia Puketapu

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Environment Committee

Order Paper for meeting to be held on Thursday, 22 March 2018 in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am

Public Business

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Please note that these minutes remain unconfirmed until the meeting of the Environment Committee on 22 March 2018.

Report 18.30

15/02/2018

File: CCAB-10-464

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday, 15 February 2018 in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am

Present

Councillors Kedgley (Chair), Blakeley, Brash (Deputy Chair), Donaldson, Gaylor, Laban, Laidlaw (from 10.20am), Lamason, McKinnon, Ogden (from 9.36am), Ponter, and Swain, Peter Gawith, and Ihaia Puketapu (from 10.00am).

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved (Cr Kedgley/ Cr Donaldson)

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Councillor Staples, and the apology for lateness from Ihaia Puketapu.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

The Committee Chair advised the meeting that an item not on the agenda would be discussed after the agenda items, being a brief oral report from Councillor Lamason on her recent conference attendance.

2 Declarations of conflict of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4 **Confirmation of the public minutes of 6 December 2017**

Moved (Cr Lamason/ Cr Donaldson)

That the Committee confirms the public minutes of the meeting of 6 December 2017, Report 17.503.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

5 **Action items from previous meetings**

Councillor Ogden arrived at the meeting during its consideration of this item of business.

Report 18.26 File ref: CCAB-10-460

Moved (Cr McKinnon/ Cr Brash)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

6 **Whaitua Programme Update – February 2018**

Ihaia Puketapu arrived at the meeting during its consideration of this item of business.

Report 18.20 File ref: CCAB-10-457

Moved (Blakeley/ Lamason)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Requests officers to prepare a communications plan for the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua for consideration by the Committee Chair and for distribution to Committee members as a matter of priority, and to report to the next Committee meeting on progress.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Noted: The Committee requested that the communications plan include provision for communications with relevant stakeholder groups.

7 **General Managers' report to the Environment Committee meeting 15 February 2018**

Councillor Laidlaw arrived at the meeting during its consideration of this item of business.

Report 18.2

File ref: CCAB-10-455

Moved

(McKinnon/ Brash)

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Requests that officers include regular Resource Management Act reporting in the General Managers' report to each Committee meeting.*
4. *Requests officers to include a summary of strategic issues at the start of each General Managers' report.*
5. *Requests officers to circulate to Committee members a copy of the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry and officers' preliminary analysis, and to report to the next Committee meeting on implications for GWRC's regulatory and bulk water supply functions.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Noted: The Committee requested a workshop on GWRC's approach to RMA compliance and enforcement.

8 **Recent conference attendance**

Councillor Lamason briefly spoke on her recent attendance at the floods, slips and coastal erosion management conference.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.

Cr S Kedgley
(Chair)

Date:



Report 18.91
Date 13 March 2018
File CCAB-10-479

Committee Environment Committee
Author Nigel Corry, General Manager, Environment Management
Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management
Luke Troy, General Manager, Strategy

Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Attachment 1 lists items raised at Environment Committee meetings that require actions or follow-ups from officers. All action items include an outline of current status and a brief comment. Once the items have been completed and reported to the Committee they will be removed from the list.

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for the Committee's information only.

Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management

Report prepared by:

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management

Report prepared by:

Luke Troy
General Manager, Strategy

Attachment 1: Action items from previous Environment Committee meetings

Action points from previous Environment Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action point	Status and comment
1 November 2017	Noted <i>Officers to organise a further fieldtrip to Transmission Gully for Councillors.</i>	Status: <i>Under action</i> Comments: Officers discussing with NZTA and JV with a view to having a field trip in early 2018. A tentative date of the morning of 4 April has been proposed.
6 December 2017	Noted <i>Officers to provide a report to a forthcoming meeting on climate change estimates and sea-level rise.</i>	Status: <i>To be actioned</i> Comments:
6 December 2017	Noted <i>Officers to change the way flood standards are expressed in reports from "1 in 100 year flood standard" to percentages instead.</i>	Status: <i>To be actioned</i> Comments:
15 February 2018	Resolution <i>Requests officers to prepare a communications plan for the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua for consideration by the Committee Chair and for distribution to Committee members as a matter of priority, and to report to the next Committee meeting on progress.</i> <i>(Noted: The Committee requested that the communications plan include provision for communications with relevant stakeholder groups.)</i>	Status: <i>Under action</i> Comments: Preliminary material has already been sent to Councillors, post discussion with the Committee Chair. Further report on current agenda.
15 February 2018	Resolution <i>Requests that officers include regular Resource Management Act reporting in the General Managers' report to each</i>	Status: <i>Under action</i> Comments: Action noted and reporting will commence on a

	<i>committee meeting.</i>	regular basis from here on in.
15 February 2018	<p>Resolution</p> <p><i>Requests officers to circulate to Committee members a copy of the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry and officers' preliminary analysis, and to report to the next Committee meeting on implications for GWRC's regulatory and bulk water supply functions</i></p>	<p>Status: <i>Completed</i></p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Paper prepared for current meeting.</p>
15 February 2018	<p>Noted</p> <p><i>The Committee requested a workshop on GWRC's approach to RMA compliance and enforcement.</i></p>	<p>Status: <i>Completed</i></p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Will hold this work shop after the 10 May Environment Committee meeting.</p>



Report 2018.63
Date 14 March 2018
File CCAB-10-470

Committee Environment
Author Kirsty Van Reenan, Senior Resource Advisor, Environmental Regulation
Jeremy Rusbatch, Team Leader, Environmental Regulation
Nick Boyens, Team Leader, Environmental Science

Havelock North Inquiry: GWRC's role in responding to Inquiry findings

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the finding and recommendations of the Havelock North Inquiry, including how GWRC is responding to the recommendations contained within the Stage 2 Inquiry report.

To recommend future actions to respond to the outcomes of the Stage 2 report.

2. The Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry

In August 2016 there was a major outbreak of gastroenteritis in Havelock North, with more than 5000 people falling ill, following the confirmation of the presence of E. coli in the water supply.

In September 2016, the Government established an Inquiry to investigate and report on the outbreak. The Inquiry has proceeded in two stages.

2.1 Stage 1

The first stage focussed on the identifying what happened, the cause of the outbreak, and an assessment of the conduct of those responsible for providing safe drinking water to Havelock North.

The Inquiry found that the contaminated drinking water was the source of the campylobacter bacteria that caused the gastrointestinal illness campylobacteriosis. Sheep faeces were the likely source of the campylobacter.

It is highly likely that heavy rain inundated paddocks causing contaminated water to flow into a pond near a public water supply bore. Water from the pond entered the aquifer and flowed across to the water supply bore where the bore pump drew contaminated water through the bore and into the reticulated system.

The Inquiry found that several of the parties with responsibility for the water supply regime (in particular the District Council, Drinking-Water Assessors and the Regional Council) failed to adhere to the high level of care and diligence necessary to protect public health and to avoid outbreaks of serious illness.

2.2 Stage 2

The second stage of the Inquiry focused on addressing lessons learned from the Havelock North outbreak and changes which should be made to improve the safety of drinking water in New Zealand and reduce the likelihood of such an outbreak occurring again.

The Inquiry identified the following six fundamental principles of drinking water safety for New Zealand:

- A high standard of care must be embraced
- Protection of source water is of paramount importance
- Maintain multiple barriers against contamination
- Change precedes contamination
- Suppliers must own the safety of drinking water
- Apply a preventive risk management approach.

The Inquiry recommended that these six fundamental principles be embedded in law and practice immediately through their recommendations. The Inquiry's recommendations and what we are doing to respond to these recommendations are detailed later in this report.

3. Responsibilities for ensuring safe drinking water

New Zealand has a complex multidisciplinary system and multiple barrier approach to drinking water safety created by the regulatory framework. The regulatory framework is established under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991, Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), and the Health Act 1956.

Each Act deals with different, but often overlapping, aspects of New Zealand's multiple barrier approach to the process of supplying potable drinking water. The multiple barrier approach has three principle components.

The *first* component is the water source. The RMA is targeted at protecting the sources of drinking water and assigns primary responsibility for protecting these sources to regional councils through their prescribed functions under the RMA, and through a national environmental standard for protecting sources of human drinking water.

The *second* component is the drinking water supplier who extracts water and supplies it to customers. This component primarily involves local government. The LGA provides local authorities with mechanisms and responsibilities for

protecting the needs of their communities in relation to the sourcing, treatment, and supply of drinking-water.

The *third* component is the public health system. The primary controlling legislation is the Health Act which places responsibility on the Ministry of Health. In practice, the Ministry of Health contracts these responsibilities to the relevant district health board. Under the Health Act drinking-water assessors have primary responsibility for monitoring drinking water supplies' compliance with drinking water standards and their obligations to supply safe drinking water.

Where different agencies have overlapping and interacting responsibilities for the safety of drinking water (see figure 1), the Inquiry's view was that the concepts of partnership and collaboration are appropriate and necessary. The Inquiry concluded that generally the interaction between the relevant agencies prior to, and during, the Havelock North outbreak fell short of the standards required. In their recommendations, the Inquiry considered cooperation between agencies, information sharing, efficiency and effectiveness.

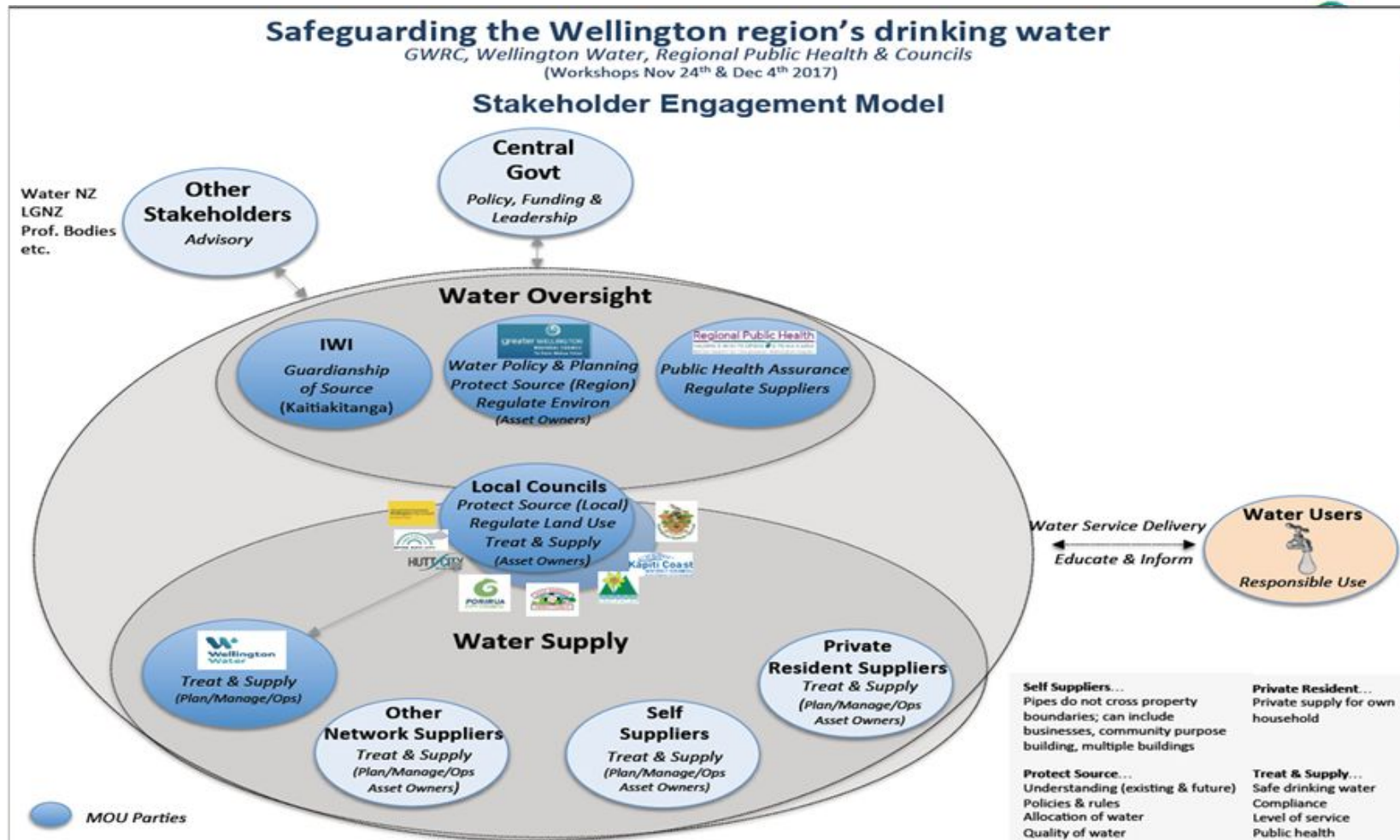


Figure 1 – Outcome the joint workshop between GWRC, WWL, TAs and RPH, held at the end of 2017. This shows the complex interactions and responsibilities (as they stand at present). The water supply ‘system’ also, at a broad level, includes private and self-suppliers. The Inquiry concluded that this complex system needs to change to prevent an outbreak of a similar nature.

4. Recommendations of the Inquiry and our response

The Inquiry made a number of recommendations to substantially improve the safety of drinking water in Havelock North and elsewhere in New Zealand. Some recommendations require changes to existing law, while others will not need a change to the law and can be implemented early. The Inquiry's view is that implementation of the recommended changes should take place as a matter of urgency.

The Inquiry split their recommendation into two parts:

1. **Urgent and early recommendations**
2. **Further recommendations to prevent recurrences**

4.1 Urgent and early recommendations

These recommendations are outlined below, and the ones that 'impact' GWRC, or where GWRC need to play an important role are **bolded** and expanded on below:

- ***Promulgate the six fundamental principles of drinking water safety***
- *Abolish the Secure Classification System*
- *Encourage universal treatment*
- *Establish a Drinking Water Regulator*
- *Interim improvements at and by the Ministry of Health*
- *Amend RMA to expressly recognise drinking water source protection*
- *Accelerate review of NES for Sources of Human Drinking Water*
- ***Encourage joint working groups***
- *Urgently amend the Health Act*

4.2 Promulgate the six fundamental principles of drinking water safety

There are a number of projects which we are working on which are directly related to one or more of the fundamental principles identified by the Inquiry, these are:

4.2.1 Identifying all drinking water supplies within the region

The Ministry of Health holds a Drinking Water Register for all public water supplies (regardless of size), but this register needs checking and updating. GWRC Environmental Science has contracted a student who has been collating information from a number of sources to identify all drinking supplies in the Wellington region. This includes private supplies as sometimes there is a large number of people using a private water source, e.g. marae, schools and golf-clubs. The aim is to understand where these water supplies are in the region and the current level of treatment being applied to the drinking water source.

Completed action: GWRC is gathering information and increasing our understanding about all public water supplies within the region.

4.2.2 Changes to Waiwhetu Aquifer monitoring programmes

The implications to the monitoring programmes for the Waiwhetu Aquifer are related to the day-to-day management of the bore field extraction and the monitoring of the background water quality in the aquifer outside the bore field. Before these implications can be fully understood and scoped there is a need to do further investigations into some of the areas of concern raised in the Waiwhetu Aquifer investigation Stage 1 report. This further work is mainly concerned with understanding the quality of the water in the aquifer, where it comes from, and how it moves through the system. Once this is understood to a greater degree we will be able to design a monitoring programme that targets the highest risk areas. The programme is likely to be a combination of collaborative work with Wellington Water on the day-to-day quality concerns along with sentinel monitoring of the long term changes in quality that may enable us to detect gradual change over time that is an indicator of potential water quality issues.

Completed action: Initiated investigations to better understand the quality of water in the Waiwhetu Aquifer and ensure our monitoring programme is robust to identify changes in water quality.

4.2.3 Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) provisions

The PNRP sets out a clear framework with the intent of protecting sources of human drinking water supplies. The PNRP identifies all community drinking water supply protection areas within the region and includes provisions (objectives, policies and rules) that specifically relate to activities within these areas. GWRC Environmental Policy, Regulation and Science have been working together through the PNRP process to refine the maps and provisions in the PNRP to best protect sources of human drinking water.

Completed action: Working collaboratively across the organisation on the PNRP provisions for the protection of community drinking water supplies.

4.2.4 Bore investigations in drinking water supply protection areas

(a) Existing bore security

One of the key messages that came out of the Havelock North Inquiry was the importance of ensuring that bore infrastructure is secure. Insecure bore infrastructure (as a result of things such as cracks and holes in the well casing or cover, corrosion, seismic events, and failure of seals) can provide a pathway for contaminants to enter groundwater and can potentially put water supplies at risk. All bores are required to be maintained so that they remain secure. GWRC are undertaking investigations into bores located within all drinking water supply protection areas within the region to ensure they are maintained so that they are secure with the intent of protecting water supplies.

Completed action: GWRC has investigated bores located within Lower Hutt to ensure they are secure. Bores within water supply protection areas on the Kapiti Coast and in the Wairarapa are currently being investigated.

(b) Providing information to the public about bore security

In tandem with the action above, GWRC and Regional Public Health are putting together information to be provided to all bore owners. The information highlights the importance of having secure bore infrastructure to protect sources of public drinking water supplies but also to protect individual water supplies.

Completed action: GWRC worked with Regional Public Health to put together a brochure on bore security to be provided to all bore owners.

4.2.5 Encourage joint working groups

GWRC is working closely with territorial authorities, Wellington Water and Regional Public Health to ensure that the best processes and forums are in place to improve the safety of drinking water within the region, and to meet the requirement in the Inquiry to have joint working groups and ensure greater collaboration across agencies.

Completed action: GWRC, the territorial authorities, Wellington Water and Regional Public Health, commenced discussions in late 2017 to discuss the potential format of a joint working group, and have drawn up a draft MOU on this matter. This is still to be signed by all parties.

4.3 Further recommendations to prevent recurrences

The Inquiry also set out *specific* recommendations for further changes needed to prevent recurrences of an outbreak of waterborne disease in water supplies throughout New Zealand. These recommendations are outlined below, and the ones that 'impact' GWRC, or where GWRC need to play an important role are **bolded** and expanded on below.

- *Mandate universal treatment*
- *Establish a Licensing and Qualifications System for Drinking Water Suppliers and Operators*
- *Other changes to the Health Act*
- *Review Drinking Water Standards NZ*
- ***Mandate collaboration***
- *Create dedicated and aggregated Drinking Water Suppliers*
- *Improve resourcing and capability of Drinking Water Assessors*
- ***Implement amended NES for Sources of Human Drinking Water***
- *Review water safety plans*
- *Strengthen enforcement of Water Safety Plans*
- *Require an Emergency Response Plan and Boil Water Notice documentation*
- *Improve the testing and laboratories regime*
- *Review NZS 4411: Environmental Standards for Drilling of Soil and Rock*
- ***Prohibit new below-ground bore heads***

The recommendations made by the Inquiry in the Stage 2 report, for which GWRC have responsibility to implementing/ influence (**bold above**) are

discussed below in more detail in section 4.3.1 – 4.3.3, including actions taken to date.

4.3.1 Mandate collaboration

As outlined above, GWRC, alongside the territorial authorities, Wellington Water and Regional Public Health commenced discussions in late 2017 to discuss the potential format of a joint working group, and have drawn up a draft MOU on this matter.

Completed action: Have commenced discussions and drafted documents to facilitate collaboration between agencies in advance of any mandate.

4.3.2 Implement amended NES for Sources of Human Drinking Water

While it will take some time for changes to be made to the NES, groundwater community drinking water supply protection zones for over 500 people have already been identified in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan. Environmental Science is working on a methodology to help Environmental Regulation assess consent applications and the effects those consented activities on the community drinking water supplies. Risks to these drinking supplies include the presence of contaminants that cannot be easily treated, so the cumulative effects in a water supply protection zone need to be understood. High nitrate levels for example are a health concern for some babies, but nitrate inputs will come from a variety of sources. We are currently requesting a design brief from GNS for a contaminant accounting tool that could provide an assessment of the likelihood of a contaminant reaching a drinking-water supply source and guidance to the consent processing officer.

Completed action: Developing changes to the technical assessment process for consenting, ahead of changes to the NES.

4.3.3 Prohibit new below ground bore heads

Under the Regional Freshwater Plan a discretionary resource consent is required to construct a bore. This process allows GWRC to place a condition on consents requiring bore heads to be installed above ground level. Very few applications for below ground bore heads are received by GWRC.

Under the Proposed Natural Resources Plan, a controlled activity consent is required to construct a bore. Currently the matters of control do not allow us to place a condition on the consent requiring the bore head to be installed above ground. Depending on the final form of the relevant rule within the Natural Resources Plan, we may need to address this issue through a formal plan change.

Completed action: Consents for bore permits will now include a condition requiring the bore head to be above ground unless this is not possible and an assessment has concluded that there no increased risk to a public water supply.

5. Other matters - Waiwhetu Aquifer investigations

GWRC has also recently responded to contamination within the Waiwhetu Aquifer which, through Wellington Water, it manages for public supply - although the reasons for the contamination have not yet been established with any certainty. We have also moved to treat the previously untreated water that had supplied part of Lower Hutt, in line with the recommendations from the Inquiry; to encourage universal treatment, and not treat any supply source as 'secure'. Below is an outline of the work we have completed to date in establishing the source of the contamination, and identifying further work we need to do.

5.1 Summary – Waiwhetu Aquifer contamination investigations

Following the detection of *E.coli* and an increasing trend in total coliforms in the water sourced for public supply from the Waiwhetu Aquifer, it was recognised that there may be some gaps in GWRC and Wellington Water's understanding of this resource. This prompted the initiation by the GWRC in collaboration with Wellington Water of a project aimed at investigating the possible causes of this almost unprecedented change in the water quality from the Waiwhetu Aquifer. The high profile of the Havelock North incident helped to give this large unplanned investigation the urgency and importance required to enable significant changes to work programmes and funding streams.

Stage 1 of the investigations is now complete and has been focused on analysis of existing and emerging data sets to update and enhance our understanding of the Waiwhetu Aquifer system. This has included analysis of existing datasets of water quality parameters (microbiological and chemical), existing aquifer water age information and reconceptualisation of the aquifer system geology based on improved datasets. The key findings of this work are:

- The presence of *E.coli* and total coliforms in the Waiwhetu Aquifer means that it cannot be considered a secure source for drinking water. This is because it indicates ingress of surface or near-surface water either directly into the bores or into the aquifer.
- It is reasonable to infer a widespread source(s) of faecal contamination and not one localised source as the Colin Grove and Mahoe St bores (both impacted by *E.coli*) are nearly at the opposite ends of the bore field. Further work is required to investigate this.
- The increased understanding of the geological setting of the Waiwhetu Aquifer suggests that the Waterloo bore field lies in an area where the aquitard is relatively thin and largely coarse grained, but is also variable in terms of lateral and vertical permeability. If this is indeed the case, heavy abstraction of groundwater from the Waterloo bore field may open poorly sealed pathways between unconfined groundwater and the aquifer. Further work is required to investigate this.

It is difficult to conclude if the contamination is a result of the Kaikoura earthquake or not. Some water quality parameters in a number of the Waterloo bores appeared to show relatively minor and short term responses to the

earthquake. Iron and Nitrate concentrations showed significant (but short-term) changes immediately after the earthquake.

6. Consideration of Climate Change

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

6.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

Officers have considered the effect of the matters on the climate. Officers consider that the matters will have no effect.

Officers note that the matter does not affect the Council's interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and/or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI).

6.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

Officers have considered the impacts of climate change in relation to the matters. Officers recommend that climate change has no bearing on the matters.

7. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

7.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

8. Engagement

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed. In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Approves** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Requests** officers to arrange a workshop inviting both Wellington Water Limited and Regional Public Health to discuss their respective responses to the broader set of Inquiry recommendations. The workshop would also incorporate an update on the 'Waiwhetu Aquifer contamination' workstream.*
- 4. **Requests** officers to work proactively with territorial authorities, Wellington Water Limited and Regional Public Health to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding clarifying arrangements and responsibilities with respect to providing safe public drinking water supply in Wellington Region.*

Report prepared by:

Kirsty Van Reenan
Senior Resource Advisor,
Environmental Regulation

Report approved by:

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental
Regulation

Report prepared by:

Jeremy Rusbatch
Team Leader, Environmental
Policy

Report approved by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management

Report prepared by:

Nick Boyens
Team Leader, Environmental
Science



Report	2018.64
Date	28 February 2018
File	CCAB-10-471
Committee	Environment
Author	Rebecca McKeown Engagement and Communications Advisor, Jon Gabites Senior Engagement Advisor

Update on Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua engagement and communications

1. Purpose

To provide information to the Environment Committee on the engagement and communications work being undertaken on the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley whaitua project.

2. Background

The whaitua process is a community-led, collaborative planning process to address a number of land and water management issues and carry out our obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). The programme aims to improve the integration of activities and achieve better resource management practices that reflect local aspirations.

The Region has been divided into five whaitua or catchments. Whaitua committees, consisting of community members, iwi representatives, partner representatives, and GWRC representatives will make recommendations to the Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) report. A WIP will contain strategies and actions that will form a programme of work for the management of land and water in that catchment.

There are currently two committees operating: the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee. Council established the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee as an advisory body in December 2017.

3. Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley whaitua engagement and communications

At the Environment Committee meeting on 19 February 2018 Committee members expressed a desire for a concise update on the progress of the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley whaitua. This was circulated to Councillors on 2 March 2018 and is intended as a briefing paper for members to use in their conversations with peers and the community ([Appendix 1](#)).

In addition to this update, Committee members were also sent a summary of the Engagement and Communications Plan for the current phase of the project establishing the membership of the Whaitua Committee. That summary ([Appendix 2](#)) includes an outline of the objectives, stakeholders, channels and timeline of activities.

Officers working on the development of the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee are continuing to engage with territorial authorities, iwi, and other partners including Wellington Water. These conversations serve to build a strong foundation for an inter-organisational approach to delivering the upcoming whaitua process. Since the Environment Committee meeting of 19 February there has been:

- Engagement with iwi regarding the naming of the whaitua. At present this conversation is in the hands of Taranaki Whanui, who have undertaken to liaise with Ngāti Toa on this matter. They will report back to Greater Wellington once a name has been suggested.
- Planning and development of Greater Wellington's general public Communications and Engagement approach to raise awareness of the opportunity to participate in the process.
- Engagement with partners in the Wellington region. In recent weeks these conversations have served to plan engagement opportunities with the urban development community and provide a platform from which to work collaboratively in current and future whaitua processes. Specifically, we have:
 - Met with officers from Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, and Porirua City Council to discuss urban development issues in the whaitua.
 - Met with officers from the four cities to plan engagement approaches with the urban development community.

In the past month we have also undertaken a contracting exercise to engage someone to deliver the set-up of the Whaitua Committee by the end of June. Upon commencement, this person will further develop stakeholder relationships and manage engagement in the catchment in collaboration with Greater Wellington officers and partners. This process will also include further engagement with Councillors to see what support you might need.

Greater Wellington Engagement and Communications officers consider that engagement with the wider community will have the greatest impact if concentrated in the month immediately preceding the advertisement of the Committee application process. We also suggest that public promotion of the Committee will carry more weight and consistency when a formal name for the committee is provided; officers within the Whaitua Project Team and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri Team are continuing to engage with iwi on this matter, as outlined above.

Given these contingencies, there is a need for an adaptive approach to Engagement and Communications planning at the pre-Committee phase of this whaitua.

General engagement activities planned for the coming month include:

- The establishment of a Whaitua Committee Facebook page for the purpose of promoting the whaitua committee process ahead of the Committee's establishment, and to act as an engagement channel for the process
- Meetings with senior management and officers at partner TAs
- Further Engagement with iwi partners about the establishment of the Committee, and in particular about its name
- Collaboration with programme contractor to further refine and deliver stakeholder engagement planning.

The project team will continue to update Environment Committee members on the set-up of the Whaitua Committee and on significant Engagement and Communications activities related to its establishment.

4. Consideration of Climate Change

No decision is being sought in this report.

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

4.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

Officers have considered the effect of the matter on the climate.

Officers note that the matter currently does not affect the Council's interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI). However, recommendations made by the Whaitua Committee in the future could provide a co-benefit of mitigating climate change. For example, the retirement and planting of erosion-prone land could give effect to sequestering carbon, however this will not be able to be further analysed until the Committee make their recommendations. Officers involved in this work will ensure this is considered in the final WIP report.

4.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

Consideration of climate change adaption has been built into the collaborative modelling projects which support each whitua project.

Climate change impacts on rainfall and catchment hydrology will be modelled and will be applied to the scenarios developed by the Committee. This information will allow for analysis of changes in contaminant generation, water allocation and flow, and the effectiveness of mitigations (such as stormwater treatment, erosion and sediment control) on a catchment-by-catchment basis.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for Environment Committee members to receive an update on the progress of the engagement and communications work being undertaken on the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley whitua.

5.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Jon Gabites
Engagement Advisor

Report approved by:

Alastair Smaill
Team Leader - Whitua

Report approved by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management
Group

Attachment 1 Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley Whitua Committee Update

Attachment 2 Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley Whitua - Summary of Communications and Engagement Plan

Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee Update

Applications open: June 2018

Committee established: August 2018

An introduction to the whaitua committee process

When established the Committee will be a group of local people (including community representatives and our iwi and city council partners) tasked with researching and recommending tailored solutions for water issues in the Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley whaitua (catchment). The whaitua includes Makara, Wellington City, the Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata.

The Committee will sit for approximately three years before presenting their Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) to Greater Wellington Regional Council. During that period, they will consult with technical experts, policy advisors, economists and communities, to understand water-related issues and decide on the best way forward. The main task is to identify freshwater objectives (communities' desired state for local water bodies), discharge limits (the maximum level of contaminants that can be discharged) and methods to manage activities on the land to achieve these objectives and limits. These will then be added as a chapter in Greater Wellington Regional Council's Natural Resources Plan.

Two other Whaitua committees – Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua – are currently underway, and are close to submitting their Implementation Programmes to Greater Wellington's Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Committee. You can read more about those committees and their progress on Greater Wellington's website:

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/whaitua-committees/>

What will the Committee be called?

Taranaki Whānui (Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust) have suggested a name they consider suitable for this whaitua. They will be connecting with Ngāti Toa Rangatira (the other iwi partner in the whaitua) to come to an agreement over the name. We have accepted this offer of support and think it is appropriate to allow our mana whenua partners to connect and agree the detail prior to broader communication about the name.

How can I be involved?

There are a number of ways you can be involved in the Committee process and do your bit for water in our catchment.

Have Your Say: The success of the whaitua committee process stands or falls on the level of public engagement it receives. The Committee will need to understand the ways in which communities in the whaitua use and value water, where the problems are, and how locals want to deal with those issues. Whaitua committee meetings are generally open to the public. When they begin later this year you are encouraged to attend and to have your say on the content and

direction of the committee's work. To have your voice heard by the Committee, keep an eye out on the Greater Wellington website and Facebook page for opportunities to offer feedback.

Join the Committee: The process is community led, and committee members will come from a variety of communities across the catchment. For those who want to do their bit for water, this process is a real and tangible way to play a part. Joining the Committee is a significant commitment, but a rewarding and meaningful role that will positively impact our environment for decades to come. To enquire about submitting an application to join the Committee in June 2018, you can email info@gw.govt.nz

A long awaited journey

You may have heard the Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley mentioned for some time. With Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committees nearing the production of their Implementation Programmes, Greater Wellington and its iwi and institutional partners are now in a position to properly support the significant technical, policy, engagement and planning demands of the process.

We're also making a step change with this new Committee, taking into consideration lessons learned from the Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committees to design a more efficient process for Wellington Harbour and the Hutt Valley. This process design has involved significant engagement with our partners and stakeholders; meaning the delayed establishment of the Committee but a more robust and meaningful process.

What will the Whaitua Committee mean for me?

When the Committee has researched and debated solutions to water quality and quantity issues around the catchment it will make recommendations to Greater Wellington Regional Council. There will then be a formal plan change process to insert these recommendations in the Natural Resources Plan. Once these changes are implemented, all resource consent applications will have to comply with the new rules. Developers, residents and Territorial Authorities will have to follow new practices and take into account a catchment-specific approach designed to reduce their environmental impacts and improve water quality.

The best way to keep up to date with any changes coming is to register to receive updates on the Committee's establishment, their work, and opportunities for feedback. You can do so by emailing info@gw.govt.nz and writing 'Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee updates' in the subject line.

Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley Whaitua

Summary of Communications and Engagement Plan

The Engagement and Communications plan this summary speaks to will steer activities and strategies for the period December 2017 – August 2018 – from the establishment of the Wellington Harbour/Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee process, to the appointment of members. Communications during the pre-Committee period are intended to be introductory in nature – informing the public that the process is underway, and putting emphasis on ‘preparing’ communities for the second, more engagement-heavy stage of the process after the Committee’s establishment.

Communication Objectives

- **To inform** - To inform stakeholders, members of the public and potential Whaitua Committee members that the Wellington/Hutt Valley Whaitua process is coming up. To inform stakeholders and members of the public about the purpose and role of Whaitua Committees.
- **To educate** - To educate members of the public about water issues in their catchment.
- **To demonstrate GW’s role in improving water quality** - To demonstrate to members of the public that GWRC is playing an active role in protecting and improving water quality in the catchment.
- **To prompt committee applications** - To stimulate potential committee members’ interest in applying for the position. To start stimulating interest among members of the public about the Whaitua process and water quality issues more generally.
- **To scope** - To start scoping and getting a feel for the catchment, its residents and the way they value water.

Partners, Stakeholders and Audiences

Iwi, TA and regional partners, Urban individuals, Urban residents’ associations, Rural individuals, Rural residents’ associations, Non mana whenua Māori, economic interest groups, Developers, Community action groups, Central government agencies, Research Institutes, University students, High School and Primary School students, Media, Marine community, Hutt River users, Wainuiomata residents, Makara residents, GW Councillors, GW ELT, Greater Wellington Staff.

Timing

March 2018: Initial communications to stakeholder groups, **April 2018:** Media coverage, further stakeholder engagement, **May 2018:** Marketing of application process, **June 2018:** Application process communications and engagement, **July 2018:** Catchment-scoping engagement, **August 2018:** Media coverage of newly-established Committee.

Channels

Greater Wellington website, Greater Wellington social media pages, direct mail, Whaitua Facebook page, posters, traditional and social media marketing, press releases, feature stories, internal communications, partners’ communications and engagement channels.



Report 2018.69
Date 1 March 2018
File CCAB-10-473

Committee Environment
Authors Tim Porteous, Manager, Biodiversity
Megan Oliver, Team Leader, Aquatic Ecosystems and Quality,
Environmental Science
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Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Programme update

1. Purpose

To update Councillors on the current status of the collaborative Porirua Harbour and Catchment programme.

2. Background

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour (the Harbour) is the largest estuary in the lower North Island and was once a highly productive food basket for Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira (Ngati Toa). Over the last 150 years, however, the Harbour has been significantly impacted by increasing sediment and pollution inputs resulting from development and changing land uses. Although these issues have had an impact on the overall health of the Harbour, it is still an important recreational, cultural and economic resource for the community. It also has nationally important biodiversity values as habitat for a wide range of bird and marine species including a number of rare and endangered animals and plants.

In response to community pressure to improve the health of the Harbour, key organisations developed the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan (the Strategy) outlining how they would work together to achieve this. The Strategy, adopted in 2012, formalised an ongoing partnership between Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and Ngati Toa together with other interested agencies and community groups. Wellington Water is also a significant partner agency that will be involved in managing wastewater and stormwater issues in particular. This collaborative approach allows us to address the range of issues across agency mandates more effectively.

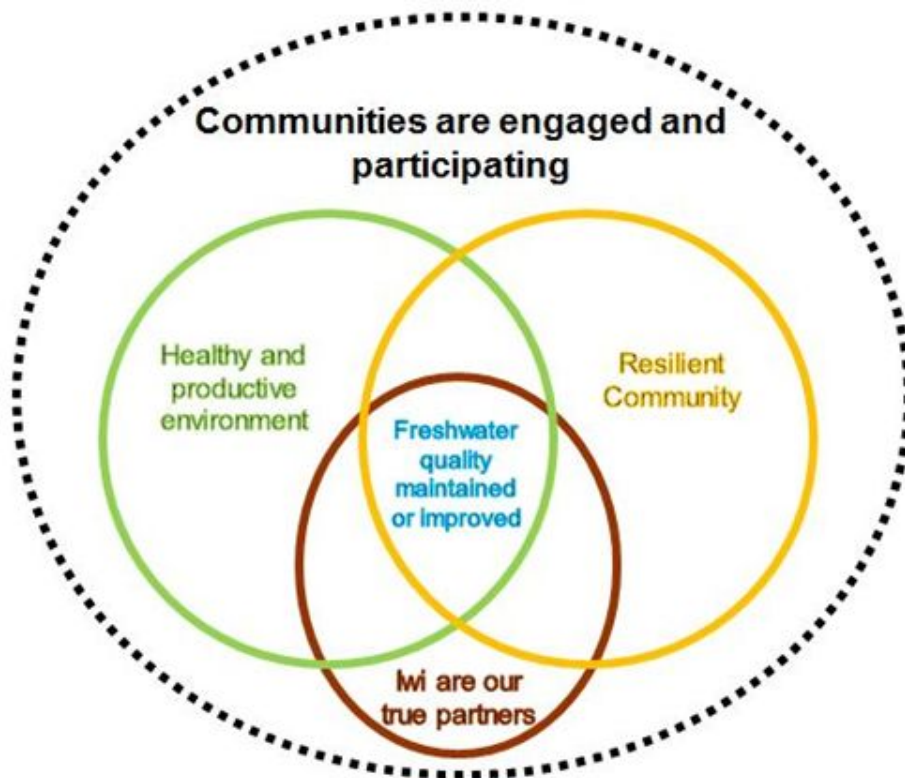
3. What we're trying to achieve

The Strategy identifies the three main issues affecting Harbour health as excessive sediment, pollution and ecological degradation. The four partner organisations have signed up for actions to address each of these. GWRC is

primarily concentrating on reducing sediment inputs and enhancing ecological values of the Harbour. However, the Council is also involved in pollution reduction through the Take Charge programme delivered by Environmental Regulation staff.

The Strategy partners recognise that the Harbour is complex and subject to many influences, both natural and as a result of human activities. Bringing about change to reduce or modify the impact of human activities is not easy or without costs. There are no quick fixes.

However the Strategy recognises this dilemma and takes a long-term inter-generational approach based on the knowledge that healthy ecosystems are the result of the committed actions of an active and engaged community. This approach accord's with Greater Wellington's conceptual framework for achieving water quality:



4. How healthy is the Harbour?

4.1 Research and monitoring undertaken to track progress against Strategy objectives

GWRC undertakes more monitoring in the Harbour and catchment than any other organisation. The monitoring fulfils both State of the Environment and Harbour Strategy requirements. Each year we monitor water quality, sediment quality, the animals and plants living in freshwater and marine environments, as well as carry out habitat mapping. Our network includes:

- Monthly water quality monitoring at three stream sites;
- Annual invertebrate monitoring at three stream sites;

- Continuous turbidity monitoring at three stream sites to measure sediment loads to the Harbour;
- Weekly monitoring at 12 popular bathing sites throughout summer (Dec-March)
- Annual sedimentation rate monitoring at 18 sites throughout the Harbour;
- Annual assessments of algal cover throughout the Harbour as a proxy measure of nutrient inputs;
- Five yearly assessments of sediment quality and invertebrate community health; and
- Five yearly mapping of habitats throughout the Harbour, including extent of seagrass meadows, and substrate such as sand and mud areas.

At intervals we have also carried out additional work such as, modelling catchment sediment loads from different land uses, bathymetric surveys to measure changes in seabed height, water quality investigations and citizen science projects.

The monitoring in Porirua Harbour represents the greater proportion of coastal monitoring GWRC do in the region and will be further bolstered by the extensive computational modelling being carried out as part of the Whaitua process.

The results of monitoring are used to track progress against Strategy actions and targets, such as a 50% reduction in sediment inputs by 2021, and reducing concentrations of stormwater pollutants entering the Harbour.

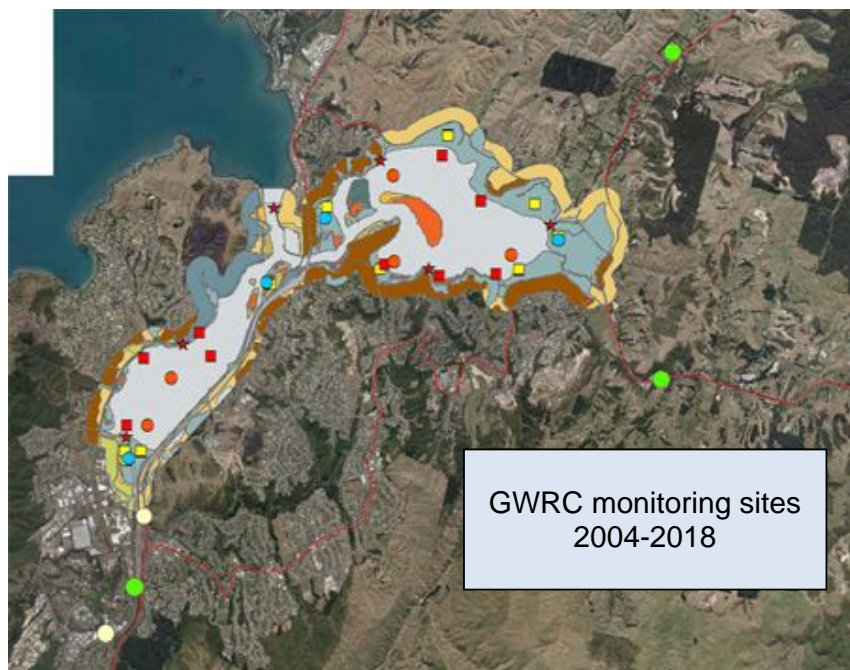


Figure 1: Core freshwater and marine monitoring sites within Porirua Harbour and catchment. Shading shows the output of habitat mapping. For example orange areas represent seagrass

4.2 What does the monitoring show?

Following more than ten years of water quality and sediment quality monitoring throughout the Harbour and catchment, results indicate that current initiatives and activities are not enough to meet the ambitious targets of the Harbour Strategy.

Monitoring results support the following key findings:

- The average annual sedimentation rate recorded across all the sedimentation plates between 2014 and 2017 was 2.5 mm. The Strategy target is to reduce sedimentation rates to an average of 1mm per year throughout the whole Harbour.
- The Strategy aims to reduce sediment inputs to the Harbour by 50% by 2010, yet inputs were greater in 2015 and 2016 than the two previous years combined (though it is important to remember we had some big rainfall events in 2015 and 2016).
- Water quality measurements in the Porirua, Horokiri and Pauatahanui streams routinely fail guideline values for *E.coli* and have done so for more than a decade; these three sites fall within the worst NOF attribute state, E.
- Nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations fail guideline values from time-to-time at all three sites; concentrations of metals in the streams are all well below ANZECC guidelines.
- The Pauatahanui and Porirua stream sites did not meet the invertebrate attribute outcome in 2016/17 as set out in the PNRP indicating invertebrate communities are in poor health.
- Twelve coastal sites are monitored over summer for recreational water quality and human health; suitability for recreation grades range from good to fair with poorest water quality sites continuing to be at the inner Onepoto Arm near the rowing and waka ama clubs.
- The Porirua at Rowing Club and Porirua at Wi Neera drive sites exceeded guideline levels on roughly 35% of sampling occasions during the 2016/17 summer; some of these exceedances were unrelated to rainfall.
- The South Beach at Plimmerton site has ongoing water quality issues and exceedances of the recreational guidelines are often unrelated to rainfall.
- Concentrations of lead and zinc continue to exceed sediment quality guidelines in the subtidal areas of the Onepoto Arm of the Harbour.
- Zinc concentrations in the sediments of Pauatahanui Arm have shown a small but significant increase since monitoring commenced in 2004; concentrations remain well below guideline levels, however.
- Invertebrate communities in the Harbour appear to be changing over time from a diverse, balanced community to one made up of animals that can tolerate very muddy, low oxygen conditions.

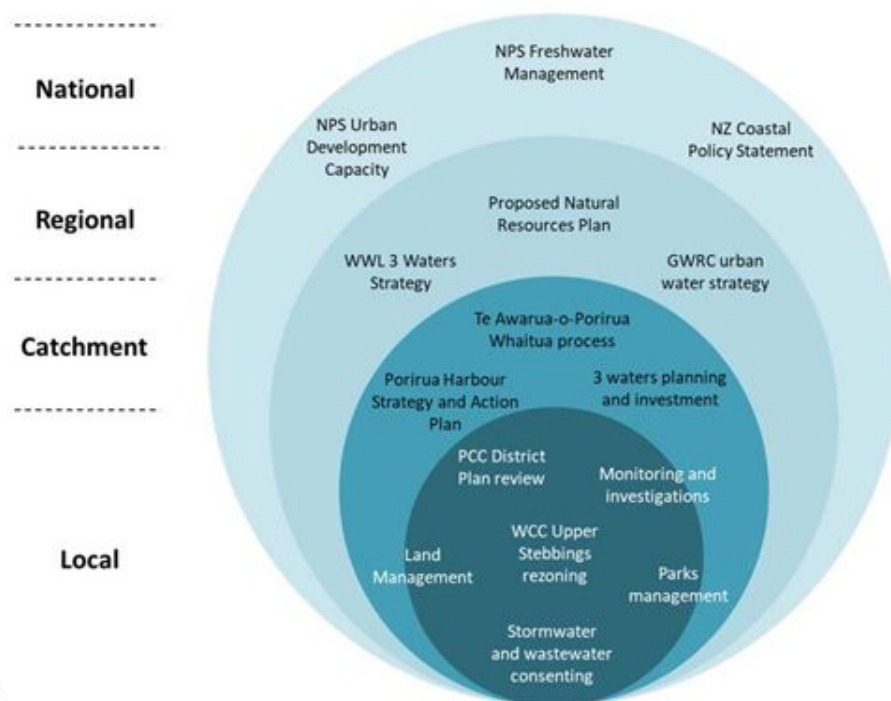
It is not surprising that the “stretch targets” of the Strategy may not be achieved within the stated timeframes as they were deliberately ambitious. . It will take

time for initiatives such as an increased level of steep land retirement and planting to have an impact on sediment inputs into the Harbour. Upgrades of stormwater and sewer networks are expensive and take time to implement. Even simple behaviour changes such as ensuring detergents, paints and cleaners from domestic use are not introduced into the stormwater system (and therefore into the Harbour) are not easily brought about.

However, the Project partners remain confident that all these long-standing issues can be resolved with the right policy settings, innovative and engaging programmes of work and sufficient resources.

5. How are we currently addressing the issues?

The Strategy sets out a combination of short, medium and long term initiatives that involve a wide range of stakeholders and activities that address the main issues affecting the Harbour. Key GWRC contributions to these initiatives are outlined below. Achievements by all four Strategy partners for 2016/17 are summarised in an annual report ([Attachment 1](#)). It should be noted that there is a large amount of work being undertaken in the catchment; a lot of which is driven by the national and regional planning framework as illustrated below:



The potential to improve water quality in the Harbour as a result of upgrading stormwater and wastewater infrastructure is recognised by the Project partners. To date Wellington Water have not been an integral part of the Project but with a changing policy environment the partners believe that they should become much closer to the Project.

5.1 Regulation

Both the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region and the proposed Natural Resources Plan (pNRP) recognise the importance of Porirua Harbour in our region. GWRC regulates discharges to land and water through the pNRP which is designed to achieve significantly better water quality outcomes than the previous regional plans. Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua is working with their community to set limits for water quality and quantity that will protect values in freshwater and the Harbour. They will also produce a range of non-regulatory recommendations building on (and informed by) the work of the Strategy.

Implementation of the Whaitua's recommendations will directly address many of sedimentation and contamination issues currently facing the Harbour.

5.2 Reducing erosion from rural land

Sediment source modelling identified steep rural land as the biggest source of sediment entering the Pauatahanui Arm of the Harbour. Stream-bank erosion is also thought to make a significant contribution. The Land Management department is addressing this through working with landowners to develop farm plans for those farms at the top of the catchment with large areas of erosion prone land. Currently eleven landowners covering 2,500 hectares of the catchment are engaged in the farm plan programme. In addition, thirteen lifestyle block owners are being supported to fence and plant the riparian margins of streams flowing through their properties. Advice is also available to landowners around good management practice for waterways and livestock to help improve water quality.

Land Management also work in our regional parks to reduce erosion and demonstrate best practice on Greater Wellington land. This programme resulted in almost 5,000 plants stabilising erosion prone land and another 2,800 seedlings planted along riparian margins last financial year.

The Project partners have recently reviewed existing work programmes and budgets in the light of the key findings from Harbour monitoring. As a result it has been decided to increase the effort protecting erosion-prone land within the catchment. Accordingly this year an additional staff resource has been provided to implement works on the ground freeing up the exiting Land Management Advisor to provide advice to more catchment landowners. Funding for riparian planting has been doubled to \$40,000 this financial year and by an additional \$20,000 in 2018/19.

5.3 Reducing pollution from local industry

The Environmental Regulation department delivers the Take Charge programme, helping local industry to minimise their impacts on waterways by offering advice and education in the context of regional and district plan rules. Often businesses want to do the right thing but don't know where to start, so through this programme we show them what they can do and make it easy for them.

This work focuses on describing and enabling best practice in managing the risk of discharges from commercial premises. This work enables us to identify and solve contamination issues within urban stormwater catchments fairly quickly.

In 2016/17 the Take Charge staff visited 26 businesses in Porirua City to discuss how they could reduce contaminants entering the waterways.

The structure and effectiveness of the Take Charge programme is being reviewed to improve engagement with businesses. The focus will be on how we influence behaviour change in those areas where we have the most resource management problems, such as contaminants from industry. This new focus will require input and co-design with the Strategy partners and Wellington Water, as well as additional staff resource of 1FTE, some of which may be directed at efforts in the Porirua catchment.

5.4 Addressing ecological degradation

A number of initiatives are undertaken by GWRC aimed at improving the ecological health of the Harbour. These include:

- Supporting community restoration groups restoring waterways through an annual contestable fund and providing training and learning opportunities.
- Ecological restoration activities within regional parks such as restoring fish passage to support indigenous fish populations.
- Pest animal and plant control at key sites around the Harbour and in the catchment to protect biodiversity values and enhance habitat for indigenous wildlife
- Managing the highest value biodiversity sights in the catchment under the Key Native Ecosystem programme.

5.5 Education initiatives

Behaviour change is integral to the success of the Strategy as most of the issues affecting the Harbour are the direct result of people's actions.

Currently GWRC engages the local community through a range of recreational events targeting different audiences which focus on education about stream and Harbour issues. These include public snorkelling experiences, stream based family activities and educational events in our regional parks as well as stalls at Waitangi Day and other large festivals.

The Strategy partners recognise the value of engaging schools as a tool to educate both children and the wider community about Harbour and stream issues. Greater Wellington as well as supporting extensive school engagement in the catchment also funds events that enable schools to connect with their local communities on stream and Harbour issues.

Our school education support includes:

- Facilitating a Harbour educator’s group which helps coordinate the activities of over 20 different agencies who are working with schools in the catchment - at least 43 of the 51 schools in the catchment have now been engaged in a Harbour specific education programme.
- Funding the Healthy Harbours school engagement programme which takes students snorkelling or testing stream water quality and results in ‘kaitiaki projects’ which are school projects to improve the environment – so far this programme has engaged with over 77 classes from 26 schools and kaitiaki projects have included restoring fish passage and inanga spawning sites, riparian restoration, a range of public engagement events, installing Littatrap and storm drain art, and advocating to PCC councillors for works to improve stream and Harbour biodiversity values.
- Lending stream testing kits to schools – approximately 25 schools in the catchment used these kits in the last financial year and the new Te Reo version has also been very popular
- Providing funding for student transport on fieldtrips to learn about stream and Harbour issues as this was identified as a significant barrier to school engagement
- Funding community events focused on stream and Harbour health run by school students
- Supporting other educators to produce relevant resources and run teacher training on Harbour and waterway issues.

5.6 The work of our partners

The city councils have both dedicated significant financial resources to reducing contaminant inputs into the Harbour. This work includes:

- Improved regulation through district planning documents and processes
- Wastewater upgrade projects in partnership with WWL which includes improvements to sewage and stormwater infrastructure and resolving legacy cross-connection issues (where pipes that should go to sewerage or trade waste go to stormwater instead)
- Coordination of litter control including street sweeping and public clean-ups
- Planting programmes to stabilise land on PCC and WCC land and WCC also support community restoration efforts in their area

- A range of advocacy activities such as Drains to Streams plaques on storm drains and educational events.

Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira (the Ngati Toa Runanga) carry out a range of stream restoration as well as being a key partner on the Management Team for the collaborative project that informs the work of all partners.

Our partners have also been investigating what they can do differently to increase the effectiveness of their activities. They are exploring the following:

- Working more closely with Wellington Water on wastewater capacity, overflow and leakage issues
- Implementing more robust stormwater management options such as more frequent street sweeping, sump cleaning and end of pipe treatment options.

6. Review of the Strategy

The Strategy was formulated with extensive input from Iwi, stakeholders, scientists, councils and the community. The Strategy is regularly reviewed with the next scheduled review due to be completed in 2021. The review process provides an opportunity for all parties, including Greater Wellington, to assess the effectiveness the Strategy and promote any changes they see necessary.

It is likely that the recommendations of the Porirua Whaitua will influence the review as many of the issues raised in this paper, where additional interventions may be required, will be specifically addressed by the Whaitua Implementation Programme and associated Plan Change.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the contents of the report.
3. **Agrees** with the current collaborative approach with a view to accelerating this once the outcomes of the Whitua Committee are known.
4. **Requests** officers to accelerate work with Wellington Water on wastewater and stormwater issues.

Report prepared by:

Tim Porteous
Manager, Biodiversity

Report prepared by:

Matthew Hickman
Manager, Environmental
Policy

Report prepared by:

Megan Oliver
Team Leader, Environmental
Science

Report approved by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management

Report approved by:

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager,
Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Annual Report



Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan

Annual Report 2016/17



From the Chair

I am pleased as the Chair of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee to introduce the 2016/17 Annual Report.

This report outlines *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan* activities that have taken place over the past year. The strategy aims to reduce erosion, sedimentation and pollutants, and to restore the ecology of our harbour.

This year has seen progress in a number of areas: in the Porirua City Council’s District Plan with the protection and improvement of the harbour a key element; the Whaitua Committee understanding catchment issues and considering policy packages to protect streams and the harbour; ongoing successful environmental education programmes in our schools; and increasing numbers of community groups getting involved in education or restoration activities.

However, further flood events, sedimentation rates and no improvement in water quality indicators are a challenge to intended outcomes and community aspirations. The Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Science Team Leader, Dr Megan Oliver, has given a frank assessment: “At current levels of activity, Harbour Strategy targets and timeframes will not be met”.

This assessment and the upcoming Long-term Plan provide an appropriate opportunity for the Councils and community to consider the existing funding levels for Harbour Strategy activities and ways to increase these to speed up improvement to harbour outcomes. Recent calls for “harbour dredging” have highlighted the concern and frustration of some residents that not enough is being done to deal with a shallowing of the harbour. The Harbour



Committee has asked for a report on the process that would be involved in establishing a case for dredging of the harbour. This report is due at the Committee’s November 2017 meeting.

Managing a catchment and harbour, such as Te Awarua-o-Porirua, is complex. There are many factors involved and not all are necessarily fully understood. This Annual Report highlights the breadth of activities and level of engagement involved in implementing the Harbour Strategy in the past year.

While some activities are necessarily long-term investments in producing a healthy harbour, the commitment demonstrates not only a significant financial, but also emotional and intellectual investment towards that ultimate goal. Any meaningful change in harbour health will take time.

The Harbour Committee, Councils, Ngāti Toa Rangitira, supporting officers and members of the community are committed to best outcomes for the harbour. Questions about the effectiveness of the existing programme have only spurred us on to work harder, or smarter, to achieve those outcomes.

Ngā manaakitanga

Anita Baker
Chair
Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy Joint Committee

Highlights

Significant progress in implementing the Harbour Strategy over the 2016/17 year has included the following:

- completion of Stages 1 and 2 of the jointly-funded Porirua Stream Mouth Estuary Enhancement Plan, including construction of an innovative dune/wetland system
- increased school participation in the 'Drains to Harbour' street drain labelling and education programme
- ongoing success of the Porirua Harbour Trust, Enviroschools and 'Healthy Harbour Porirua' school environmental education programmes
- progress of the Greater Wellington Regional Council Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee towards policy and rules governing freshwater quality and quantity in the harbour catchment
- the review of the Porirua City Council District Plan that seeks to elevate the

centrality of the harbour and better reflect the significance of the harbour to the community and the objectives of the harbour strategy and the harbour as a strategic priority to the Council.

Harbour Strategy review change

At its March 2016 meeting, the Joint Harbour Committee decided to defer the scheduled three-yearly review due in 2018.

There are a series of statutory changes and processes over the next 18 months that are likely to significantly impact on the Harbour Strategy. The Committee agreed that it would be important to reflect these in a review of the strategy as soon as practicable. Rather than proceeding with the scheduled review of the strategy document – which is still working well and considered fit-for-purpose – it was decided to review the document once the anticipated statutory changes have occurred.





People movements

Following the local body elections, we started the year with a ‘fresh look’ Joint Harbour Committee. Welcome to new Chairperson, Clr Anita Baker (Porirua City Council). And new members Clr Kylie Wihapi (Porirua City Council), Sharli-Jo Solomon (Ngāti Toa Rangitira) and Clr Peter Gilbert (Wellington City Council (WCC)) to add to returning Clr Barbara Donaldson from GWRC.

Congratulations to Wanda Tait (pictured above during the 2016 Cockle Count) for receiving the rare ‘Old Blue’ Award from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society for her long and effective service. Of particular note is her work leading the restoration and management of the nationally significant Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve. Well done Wanda.

Statutory and regulatory activities

A key action in the strategy is to progressively align statutory planning documents as the opportunities arise. Significant progress in this area continued during the year.

Porirua City District Plan Review

The Porirua City Council intends to have a draft Plan ready for public engagement by the end of 2017. Part of the Plan review is focusing on putting the harbour ‘front and centre’ in the review process and within the eventual draft document. This includes considering a package of policies to reduce contaminants and sediment and to protect and improve the health of the harbour.

The Council have been working closely with the Waitua Committee (see below) to anticipate and reflect tighter limits on stream and harbour water quality provisions likely to be introduced in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan.

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

The Proposed Regional Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) for the Wellington Region was released by GWRC mid-2015. Water quality objectives for the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour catchment and methods to achieve these are being developed by the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Waitua Committee. The policies and methods are likely to support the objectives of the Porirua Harbour Strategy.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Waitua Committee

The community-led Te Awarua-o-Porirua Waitua Committee has been digesting information collected from the previous year, and working with a modelling team to gain an understanding of current and future water issues and solutions. The Committee is now considering policy options towards maintaining or improving the quality of streams in the

catchment. Critically, the significance of stream water quality on the health of the harbour is also recognised and forms a central part of Committee deliberations. The Waitua Committee will complete a Waitua Implementation Plan early next year for the Regional Council’s consideration and, through a plan change, will be adopted into the PNRP.

More information about the Waitua Committee and Waitua process is available from www.gw.govt.nz/te-awarua-o-porirua-waitua-committee.

Stormwater Bylaw

Porirua City Council introduced a Stormwater Bylaw in August 2015 that prohibited the disposal and washing of common chemical products, such as oil, detergent and cement slurry, into stormwater drains.

Finding suitable locations for community carwash pads has proven to be more difficult than originally thought. However, good progress has now been made and a pilot carwash pad should be available for use by late 2017.

Progress has also been made on providing a carwash fundraising facility to avoid generating contaminated run-off. Repco, owners of a popular fundraising site, are keen to host a more eco-friendly facility for carwash fundraisers and is working with Porirua City Council to achieve this.

Earlier in 2017, Wellington Water Limited (WWL) launched its online campaign highlighting stormwater contamination and ways that people and communities can help reduce contaminants entering streams and the harbour. This online campaign, which includes pop-up videos, has been very visible on Facebook.

GWRC has also produced a new-look environmentally-friendly carwash pamphlet and, with Porirua City Council, is looking at ways to get those out to households in Porirua.

Regional park management

GWRC and the CPB-HEB Joint Venture partnership constructing the Transmission

Gully Motorway (TGM) are discussing the project’s mitigation planting to including the headwaters of Duck Creek and Cannons Creek in Belmont Regional Park. The Regional Park land around Cannons Creek has also now been completely retired from grazing.

In addition to planting at Battle Hill Forest Farm Park, GWRC has also undertaken remediation work to improve fish passage in a tributary of the Horokiri Stream.

Transmission Gully Motorway

GWRC Compliance Manager, Al Cross, was seconded to the TGM project for six months to help the project team improve their environmental compliance provisions, as required by the Environmental Protection Authority’s Board of Inquiry.

The project team has accepted an invitation to be part of both the Harbour Strategy Management Team and the Strategy Implementation Team. One result of this participation is the discussions to plant some headwater catchments.

With the opening of the Kāpiti Expressway this year and pressure to complete TGM in 2020, the Wellington Gateway Partnership successfully applied to loosen consent conditions limiting the amount of open earthworks at any one time. These restrictions have subsequently been lifted. Earthworks and construction activities are now fully underway along the 28km length of the project.



During the November 2016 rainfall and flooding event, there was no observation or measurable evidence that TGM was a significant contributor to sediment entering the harbour.

TGM have undertaken a more open communications strategy and now provides monthly online updates for the community and other groups through a new public website.

Projects

Projects are physical interventions to meet at least one of the three objectives of the strategy – reduce sediment, reduce pollutants, or provide ecological restoration.

Ngāti Toa Rangitira projects

The iwi continues to be an integral part of implementing the Harbour Strategy and is also involved in the Whaitua process.

Restoration of the Mahinawa Stream adjacent to Takapūwāhia has included weed control, planting of stream banks, improving inanga

spawning habitat, and the removal of the ‘wa-stop’ from the culvert into the harbour, which was a barrier to native fish migration. Ngāti Toa are also developing Marine Cultural Health Indicators to be used to monitor the health of the harbour and surrounding coast.

The Takapūwāhia Village Planning Group has been working with Porirua City Council to improve waka ama and cycleway facilities at the local harbour edge.

Ngāti Toa is currently working with GWRC and planning the first shellfish count of the Onepoto Arm for this November 2017.

Wellington Water Limited

During the year, the Committee was reminded that the sewer and stormwater networks are the most significant contributor to poor water quality in parts of the harbour – particularly in the Onepoto Arm of the harbour. Therefore improving the condition and operation of these networks is critical to public health, ecology and enjoyment of the harbour and streams. WWL manages the network for Porirua and Wellington city councils.



WWL’s Draft Regional Service Plan sets out the high-level priorities and directions for the next 30+ years. It is currently being prepared in consultation with the Councils and a draft will be ready for public consultation in late 2017.

An Engagement Strategy providing a framework for community education has been adopted by WWL in the past year. Priorities include water conservation, reducing blockages in the wastewater network (which can lead to overflows), and reducing pollutants entering stormwater drains.

In 2016/17, WWL developed a wastewater network improvement plan. The plan identified four upgrade concept options with a proposal for the Porirua City Council 2018–28 Long-term Plan.

A condition assessment of the wastewater (sewer) network and pumpstations is continuing, and any identified renewals will be included in the long-term renewal programme on a priority basis.

The following works have either been completed in the past year or are currently underway:

- renewal and relining the Kenepuru Stream main pipe (Porirua East)
- renewal of the Plimmerton and Whitehouse Rd systems, which have been completed
- design and consenting for the Thompson Gully system renewal
- starting pumpstation upgrades for Duck Creek, Tangare Drive and other critical pumpstations
- flow monitoring in Cannons Creek, Whitby and Titahi Bay, in preparation for subsequent renewal
- completing an equipment condition assessment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and an upgrade started
- upgrade of the emergency generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant was completed.

A plan to address flooding in the Porirua City



CBD has been completed. This includes the concept for development of a wetland feature on a part of Elsdon Park to treat and store stormwater before discharge into the harbour. WWL is working with Ngāti Toa Rangitira to refine the concept and address flooding issues in Takapūwāhia Village. WWL was successful in its application to the Freshwater Improvement Fund for \$2 million towards the \$4 million project.

Pest control

GWRC completed aerial control of willow and pampas in Taupo Swamp this year. However, because of the wet summer, they were unable to undertake a planned blackberry control. The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust also funded extra animal pest traps around Taupō Swamp in partnership with Predator Free Plimmerton.

WCC are continuing pest plant management in areas of high ecological importance, such as Seton Nossiter Park, targeting mostly climbers such as Old Man’s Beard and Honeysuckle.

GWRC installed additional trapping around the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve following confirmation of the presence of the rare Spotless Crake. Most recently, 22 nationally endangered Fernbird were released in the Reserve by the Department of Conservation – a first for the Porirua area, and also the first mainland-to-mainland translocation of Fernbird in New Zealand.

GWRC Land Management

GWRC completed four Soil Conservation Plans for properties in the Pāuatahanui area with three more in draft, providing a total of seven additional properties with soil conservation plans this year.

Catchment work has included the following:

- 1,950 popular/willow poles planted on erosion-prone land
- 3,000 manuka planted on slip scars
- 2,800 seedlings planted in riparian areas
- 570m of riparian and wetland fencing to exclude stock.

GWRC’s work supports rural landowners to change their land management practices. This is a key way to reduce the volume of sediment being eroded from rural land. Anyone interested in this programme can contact Land Management Officer Jamie Peryer for more information at **Jamie.Peryer@gw.govt.nz**.

This work is part of an overall catchment-wide Sediment Reduction Plan, which is available from the **GWRC website**.

Porirua Stream Mouth Estuary Enhancement Project

After a number of years of planning, design and consultation, Stage 2 of the Porirua Stream Mouth Estuary Enhancement Project

(PSMEEP) was completed in July 2017.

This is a joint project with Porirua City Council and GWRC, and is the first of its kind in the Wellington Region.

The work on the harbour edge behind Pak’nSave has been very visible to the public and has transformed the look and feel of a long-neglected and mis-used part of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. The project involved the development of an artificial wetland and dune system for the purpose of providing extra bird habitat and receiving and treating stormwater from parts of the CBD.

Part of the project was to install rock rip rap at either end of the dune. This is to stop ongoing erosion of the reserve area, while also protecting the new dune and wetland. It is anticipated that there will be episodic erosion of the dune from extra high tides and strong northerly winds, but there is an overall pattern of sediment build up at this location.

GWRC officers worked with students from three local schools to plant the first dune area, and a team from Porirua City Council and GWRC officers finished the planting.



Interpretive panels will be designed and installed for this area by GWRC, Porirua City Council and local children. These will explain how the dune and wetland system works and draw attention to the other natural rarities in the nearby sand flats.

Meanwhile, the obvious tidy-up to this part of the harbour has created interest from commercial operators keen to capitalise on the improvements and contribute to the amenity value by introducing businesses, such as a coffee outlet.

It will be very interesting to see this area develop further and become a more treasured part of the city and harbour.

Growth in community groups

Community involvement in environmental restoration projects to improve the health of the harbour and catchment has continued to grow, with two new groups being funded by GWRC this year.

- The Asert-Tatou Development Trust is assisting the local Forest and Bird group with planting in the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve and helping the Enviroschools programme to enable schools to create lizard gardens and restore wetlands.
- The Growing Places Trust is working with local community groups to restore areas along transport corridors in the catchment.

There are also a number of new predator-free groups that have started trapping pest animals in Plimmerton and in Titahi Bay, adjacent to Whitireia Regional Park.

In addition to these new groups, a number of others are receiving ongoing funding to continue their restoration work in the catchment.

- The Kahotea Stream Restoration Group (Onepoto Park catchment) continued implementing its restoration plan for the stream with planting of the stream banks this winter.

- The Aotea Conservation Volunteers have continued planting around the Kenepuru Stream in the Aotea area of Bothamley Park.

The Woodridge Planters continue to grow large numbers of plants for their work along the Belmont Stream and its tributaries, and the restoration projects of other groups in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour catchment.

With the help of 11 community restoration groups, WCC planted over 10,000 plants in the Porirua Stream catchment between Johnsonville and Porirua City. All these plants were grown by WCC's Berhampore Nursery. Five hundred were planted as part of the Million Metres Stream Project by local community groups in Seton Nossiter Park.

Dredging of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour

A group interested in dredging the harbour made presentations to the Joint Harbour Committee and GWRC during the latter part of the year.

This gave the Committee and Councils an opportunity to re-familiarise themselves with the science around dredging and the focus on harbour sedimentation patterns and sediment source reduction.

Excessive sedimentation rates continue to prematurely fill both arms of the harbour. The priority has been to increase work to stop catchment erosion and better control sediment-laden run-off from development earthworks.

Statutory decision-making on any dredging rests with GWRC. However, the Joint Harbour Committee has asked for a report on what the process will be around any consideration of dredging for Porirua Harbour. That report is being prepared for the Committee's November 2017 meeting.

Community education

Community environmental education efforts continue to grow and evolve within the Porirua Harbour catchment.

School environmental education

Agencies who support school environmental education meet regularly to collaborate on projects and ensure they are collectively delivering an effective, joined-up service to schools around the catchment. There are 19 different organisations involved in this group.

School environmental education programmes delivered by this group are a particular highlight of the harbour strategy activities. This year they have focused on stormwater water quality improvement as a significant contribution to raising awareness and increasing participation in reducing household pollutants being tipped, flushed or poured down drains.

Between them, the Porirua Harbour Trust (PHT) (funded by the Phillips Family Foundation), Enviroschools and the 'Healthy Harbours Porirua' (HHP) environmental education programmes have successfully resourced and supported 37 schools over the past three years, with 24 still actively engaged this year. These programmes are now seeking to focus on engaging the remaining 14 schools in the catchment, mostly in the upper Porirua Stream area from Linden through to Newlands.

The programme has seen schools not only learning in the classroom, but also getting involved in litter clean-ups, tree planting, drain art and drain labelling events. HHP is also delivering a whitebait spawning project at Takapūwāhia streams and a number of Whitebait Connection programmes around the catchment.

A number of the participating schools also made written submissions to the Porirua City Council Annual Plan and followed these with oral presentations at Council hearings. The

quality and content of these submissions was excellent and much appreciated by the Council and the community.

The PHT educator (together with Enviroschools and other partners) have continued to provide professional development for teachers this financial year. The most recent programme, funded by GWRC, focused on experiential learning enabling teachers to lead more effective student fieldtrips and associated classroom learning about harbour-related issues.

Participating schools, the Councils and community continue to be impressed by the quality of the programme.

Mountains to Sea Wellington (MTSW) began trialling a freshwater monitoring protocol with school groups who wanted to extend their programmes, and to track progress alongside restoration efforts. Over the past year MTSW has introduced the protocols to five schools in the Greater Wellington region.

WCC have engaged with MTSW, NIWA and GWRC, along with a variety of freshwater organisations, to develop a free and open online resource where schools (and community groups) can capture this monitoring data.

Business education – Take Charge

The GWRC 'Take Charge' business education and monitoring programme works with businesses to reduce contaminants entering drains and streams. This year the programme visited 26 sites in the Raiha Street and Broken Hill area. Each of these businesses is now working towards completing the requirements of the Take Charge programme, with one business opting to roll out the programme to all of their sites across the region.

Snorkelling events

Two public snorkelling events in Whitireia Park were run by GWRC in February and March as part of Seaweed 2017 and the GWRC Great Outdoors Summer Events Programme. Both events promoted harbour health and good practices around stormwater.

Annual Porirua Harbour Trust Scorecard

The annual Porirua Harbour Trust ‘Scorecard’ was released in April. Apart from understandable concerns about increased sedimentation rates in the harbour over 2015 and a resultant decrease in cockle numbers, other indicators and the overall commitment of the Councils were seen not to be significantly different from previous years.

Drain labelling

Thanks to ongoing funding from WWL, the city-wide ‘Drains to Harbour’ stormwater drain labelling programme continued with involvement of Pukerua Bay, Paremata, Papakowhai and Windley schools starting work in their own suburbs. Tawa College labelled the drains in the Kenepuru/Wall Place/Raiha Street and Broken Hill Road industrial areas, while Porirua School completed labelling of the Elsdon residential area.



Restoration Day 2017

Restoration Day was held in Porirua this year, at the Whitireia Polytechnic on Sunday 21 May. This is a free, annual conference for community groups doing environmental restoration projects. This year’s event, one of the most popular ever, was booked out. The location allowed an opportunity to showcase the work of community groups along the Kahotea Stream and in Whitireia Park. It also included a bus tour led by Ngāti Toa Rangitira and discussions about areas around the catchment of historical and cultural value, and a workshop focused on the traditional use of native plants.

GWRC Restoration Day partners have also hosted workshops throughout the year aimed at upskilling restoration groups, one of which was in the harbour catchment.

Stream Health Assessment Kits

Another four kits have been added to the nine existing ones in response to their popularity with schools. The kits are designed for years 5–8 and come with guidance that teachers can use in the field with students.

GWRC produced a Te Reo version of its Stream Health Assessment Kit this year. This has been a welcome addition to school resources, facilitating further uptake and participation in the environmental education programmes.

Research and monitoring

The full long-term monitoring programme of the harbour and catchment biophysical conditions continued.

Monitoring

Floods and sedimentation

Following a very wet winter and summer, sediment monitoring in the streams of the three largest catchments recorded significant quantities of sediment entering the harbour from the surrounding land. Measurements of



sediment deposition in the harbour have shown high rates of sedimentation in the subtidal (below low tide) areas.

Faecal contaminant monitoring

A joint NIWA/GWRC project briefly trialed a real-time faecal contamination monitor in the lower Porirua Stream from March to May. This provided information on patterns of contamination timing. More information will be available later this year.

Recreational water quality monitoring

Water quality monitoring continued throughout summer (weekly) and winter (fortnightly) within the harbour and on the coast. The safe water quality standard was breached on numerous occasions, particularly at Plimmerton Beach and the new Wineera Drive waka ama ramp sampling locations.

GWRC has recently produced a recreational water quality report card, “Is it safe to swim in Porirua?” providing information and guidance for harbour users. Copies are available from the Porirua City Council office and libraries or online at gw.govt.nz.

Research

Several discrete research projects were either started or completed during the year. These are outlined below.

2016 Cockle Count

The three-yearly study led by the Guardians of the Pāuatahanui Inlet (GOPI) took place in November, following flooding and despite prevailing poor harbour conditions.

Unsurprisingly, the results showed the first decrease in cockle numbers since the survey started 24 years ago in 1991. The reversal in the upward trend is attributed to four major floods in the past two years, including one just before the 2016 Cockle Count started.

Seagrass transplant trials

Monthly seagrass transplant monitoring was carried out by GOPI volunteers for the whole year. Monthly water quality monitoring and continuous light measurements were also taken. The transplants did not survive and all monitoring ceased in June 2017.

Water quality forecasting

GWRC continue to trial a water quality forecast for the harbour, that they hope to have available for public use in the 2017/18 summer. Users will be able to access the tool online to get an idea of the likely risk of illness from swimming or shellfish gathering at high-use locations around the harbour on any given day. It is hoped the public and event organisers will use the online tool to plan harbour activities.

Whaitua research

Part of the Whaitua Committee work described earlier, involves modelling of aspects of the biophysical, economic, social and cultural impacts of various water and land-use management options for the Porirua Harbour catchment. The results will inform policy decisions of the Whaitua Committee. But the results will also help review the current objectives, actions and resourcing of the Harbour Strategy. Final results are scheduled for early 2018.

Conclusions

Although it is still too early in the Harbour Strategy Programme to expect any significant long-term changes in the health of the harbour, a number of observations can be reported:

- While there was further sediment input to the harbour during the November 2016 flooding (which added to that of May 2015 and 2016), this is consistent with high-variability over time and at different locations within the harbour. The overall trend in sedimentation rates is not showing any meaningful trend at this stage – either better or worse.
- The muddiness of deposits, and the areas of mud, is increasing, while the area of sea grass habitat continues to decline.
- There has been a significant increase in inanga spawning habitat since the last survey in 2001.
- The monitoring and research results will continue to feed in to future research, planning and catchment management decisions.

In conclusion, most pieces of the *Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan* are now in place. An increase in, or reprioritising of, resources for the progressive and ongoing implementation will increase the likelihood of improvement to the health and enjoyment of the harbour.

The **Work Plan** for the 2016/17 year follows and is available on the Porirua City Council website on the “healthy harbour” web page.

Thank you again to all who have contributed to the realisation of the vision – “*A healthy catchment, waterways and harbour, enjoyed and valued by the community*”.

Ngā mihi o te ra
September 2017



Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan

Work Plan 2017/18

Highlights for the coming year include:

- Completion or commencement of statutory plans that will:
 - strengthen controls over earthworks
 - reduce contaminants entering streams and the harbour
 - protect or increase catchment vegetation
 - protect and improve stream and harbour water quality
- ongoing community and Council restoration programmes
- ongoing programme of stormwater and wastewater network upgrades, including design work for the Awarua Wetland and stormwater diversion
- ongoing upgrade in Wastewater Treatment Plant and waste treatment capacity
- Porirua Harbour exhibition at Pātaka Art + Museum youth gallery
- first shellfish count in the Onepoto Arm of the Harbour
- launch of the public swimming water quality online forecasting tool.

Activity		Agency	Budget 17/18 (\$)
Planning			
Proposed Regional Resource Plan	• policy & rules impacting coast, harbour & catchment	GWRC	-
Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Plan	• specific policy & rules to maintain or improve stream water quality & quantity in the catchment	GWRC	-
Porirua City District Plan Review	• policy & rules for I& uses to improve protection of stream & harbour water quality for next 10 years	PCC	-
Porirua City Council Long-term Plan	• priorities & funding provisions for Council activities for next 20 years	PCC	-
Review of Conservation Sites		WCC	-
Outer Green Belt Management Plan		WCC	-
Asset Management Plans	• work priorities & plans for water supply, wastewater & stormwater network maintenance & upgrade for 2017/18	WWL/ PCC&WCC	-
30 year Strategic Asset Plan	• strategic long-term plan for maintaining & upgrading water supply, wastewater & stormwater network	WWL/ PCC&WCC	-
Projects			
Community environmental restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contestable community restoration fund • Restoration Day 2018 • produce & deliver a restoration workshop calendar of volunteer training opportunities 	GWRC	51,000
	• plant materials for community restoration projects	WCC	30,000
Pest animal & plant control	• maintain & enhance biodiversity values at key sites	GWRC	55,000
Biodiversity management	• catchment works	GWRC	25,000
Pest animal & plant control	• pest control materials & working with community restoration groups	WCC	39,000
Porirua Stream Mouth Estuary Enhancement Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical works • consultants & project management • dune maintenance 	PCC	210,000
	• waka ramp construction	PCC	109,000
Land management	• erosion reduction through Land Management Officer working with private rural landowners	GWRC	25,000
Riparian fund	• riparian margin restoration through Land Management Officer working with semi-rural landowners	GWRC	20,000
Operations & professional advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specialist catchment & coastal technical advice • programme support 	PCC	9,000
Restoration planting	• plant, materials & contractors	WCC	40,000
		Subtotal	613,000
Stormwater projects			
Stormwater investigations & upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public carwash facility (Prosser Street) • stormwater upgrade master planning • improvements (Rawhiti Road, Maraeroa School, Wall Place, Mohuia Crescent) • flood-prone areas - investigations & design (Titahi Bay, Windley School) • stormwater model update • reactive renewals 	WWL/PCC	1,278,000
CBD stormwater diversion & Awarua Wetland (design)		WWL/PCC	200,000
		Subtotal	1,478,000
Wastewater projects			
Renewals & relining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenepuru Stream, Mana Esplanade, Thompson Gully • reactive renewals 	WWL/PCC	2,100,000
Pumpstation upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duck Creek, Rawhiti Road • condition assessments • reactive renewals • consents 	WWL/PCC	669,000
Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenepuru Stream maintenance • hydraulic model update • seismic resilience • pipeline condition assessments • telemetry/flow monitoring system 	WWL/PCC	459,000
		Subtotal	3,228,000

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Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan

Activity		Agency	Budget 17/18 (\$)
Joint venture wastewater projects			
Pumpstation renewals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tangare Drive consents reactive renewals 	WWL/ PCC&WCC	686,250
Wastewater Treatment Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> building & component renewals discharge consents sludge handling 	WWL/ PCC&WCC	1,329,850
Investigations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trunk network upgrade feasibility long-term flow & overflow monitoring water quality sampling for Network Improvement Plan rain gauge programme pipe condition assessment (CCTV) inflow & infiltration investigations 	WWL/ PCC&WCC	645,000
Subtotal			2,661,100
Education & awareness			
School education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fund 'Healthy Harbours Porirua' programme support Porirua Harbour Trust coordinator coordinate school educator meetings provide restoration opportunities for schools maintain Stream Health Assessment Kits & teacher training 	GWRC	53,000
Promotional events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> harbour biodiversity promotion 	GWRC	35,000
Administration grant to Porirua Harbour Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trust advocacy & education work 	PCC	5,000
Harbour promotions & education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> printing & materials exhibitions 	PCC	10,000
Street drain labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Drains to Harbour' plates 	PCC (WWL)	7,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> equipment & materials 	PCC	3,500
Pātaka Porirua Harbour exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> permanent exhibition in youth gallery 	PCC	70,000
Subtotal			183,500
Research & monitoring			
Shellfish count (Nov 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira 	TROTR/ GWRC	20,000
Cultural Health Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of indicators for identifying water health (wai ora) 	TROTR/ DOC	TBA
River ecology & water quality monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monthly freshwater monitoring – in Pāuatahanui, Horokiri & Porirua streams 	GWRC	6,100
Recreational water quality monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sampling programme at Titahi Bay, Porirua Rowing Club, Plimmerton, Paramata, Water-ski club & Whitireia Waka Ama sites 	GWRC	5,967
TAOPH strategy programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> research towards the strategy programme 	GWRC	17,500
Intertidal habitat mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> five-yearly habitat survey 	GWRC	16,000
Turbidity monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring suspended sediments entering harbour 	GWRC	22,550
Sediment plate monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring sediment plate network in harbour 	GWRC	9,050
Swimming water quality forecasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public online tool 	GWRC	25,000
WCC monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stream water quality 	WCC	4,000
Subtotal			126,167
Total			8,289,767
Agency contributions			
	Porirua City Council	PCC	344,500
	Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira	TROTR	20,000
	Wellington Water Limited/Porirua City Council	WWL/PCC	4,752,800
	Wellington City Council	WCC	113,000
	Joint Venture Wastewater	WWL/PCC & WCC	2,661,100
	Greater Wellington Regional Council	GWRC	366,167

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Committee Environment
Author Jake Roos, Acting Climate Change Advisor

Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group- Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

For the Committee to consider the draft terms of reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group (Working Group) and recommend to Council that they be adopted.

2. Background

At meeting of the Environment Committee on 11 September 2017, Councillors considered the proposal to establish a Working Group and recommended to Council that two representatives (a representative and an alternate) be appointed to act as Climate Change Action Leader/s and represent this Council on the Working Group. Councillors Kedgley and Cr Blakely were recommended by the Committee and subsequently confirmed by the Council. The Working Group has met on 4 December and 16 March.

Further background on the rationale for the working group can be found in Report 2017.336.

The Working Group is operating under a draft terms of reference that its members collaboratively developed and agreed. Each Council is now considering formal adoption of the terms of reference. The draft terms of reference are attached as [Attachment 1](#) to this report.

3. Comment

The objectives of the Working Group encompass climate change **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and **adaptation** (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise drought and enhanced natural hazards effects). The working group primarily serves an information-sharing and co-ordination role. While it can recommend actions to its member councils, there is no delegation of decision-making authority to the working group and such recommendations

would be considered and adopted by each council individually if they chose, within a timeframe that meets individual councils' needs.

Three nominees for representatives are being sought from Ara Tahi in accordance with the working group's draft terms of reference. Confirmation of these appointments will be sought from Council on 24 May 2018 if the terms of reference are adopted.

4. Communication

The Council will be advised of the Committee's decision..

5. Consideration of climate change

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

5.1 Mitigation and adaptation assessment

Officers have considered the impacts of climate change in relation to the matter. As set out in the Terms of Reference for the Working Group (**Attachment1**), the network, discuss issues, share information and where appropriate, achieve a consistent approach across all jurisdictions on climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise, drought and enhanced natural hazards effects). It is envisaged that the Working Group will therefore positively influence

6. The decision-making process and significance

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

6.1 Significance of the decision

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance. The proposed Working Group will be a collaborative Working Group of the councils of the Region, not a formal Joint Committee. Recommendations of the Working Group would be considered by each council.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

6.2 Engagement

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed. In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Endorses the draft Terms of Reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.***
4. ***Recommends to Council that it adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group.***

Report prepared by:

Jake Roos
Acting Climate Change
Advisor

Report approved by:

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Strategic and
Corporate Planning

Report approved by:

Luke Troy
General Manager, Strategy

Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group

Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

To provide a forum via which councils and mana whenua from across the Wellington Region can network, discuss issues, share information and where appropriate, achieve a consistent approach across all jurisdictions on climate change **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and **adaptation** (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise, drought and enhanced natural hazards effects).

2. Background

Councils in the Wellington Region are addressing a broad range of climate change related issues with individual councils implementing initiatives designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

At a meeting in August 2017 representatives from councils across the region agreed that each council would benefit from participating in a regional working group that would provide coordination, facilitate joined up action and enable consistent leadership, advocacy and communications in relation to climate change.

3. Membership:

The Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group (the Working Group) will include one main and one alternate elected member from each council in the Wellington region¹ and three mana whenua representatives from Ara Tahi.²

4. Arrangements

The Working Group is a collaborative work group made up of representatives from each of the councils of the Wellington Region and mana whenua; it is not a joint committee, and any recommendations of the Working Group would be for consideration by each council³

¹ Greater Wellington Regional Council; Wellington City Council; Hutt City Council; Upper Hutt City Council; Porirua City Council; Kapiti Coast District Council; Masterton District Council; Carterton District Council; South Wairarapa District Council

² Ara Tahi is a leadership forum of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and its six mana whenua partners who meet to discuss strategic issues of mutual interest (Ara Tahi membership comprises two representatives from each mana whenua authority, two GWRC Councillors and GWRC's Chief Executive). GWRC will appoint up to three representatives from Ara Tahi, one each representing: East Coast: Wairarapa; West Coast: Otaki to Porirua; Central: Wellington and Hutt Valley. Ara Tahi representatives are entitled to receive GWRC's standard daily meeting fee and mileage allowances for each meeting they attend.

³ Including any consultation process that is appropriate to that council

Attachment 1 to Report 18.80

The workload will be shared across the councils of the region – arranging and hosting meetings on a roster basis.

The Working Group will meet four times a year, on a quarterly basis.

The Working Group will agree at the beginning of each year where and when meetings are to be held. At any time during the year a member of the Working Group or a council officer can make a recommendation that the meeting date or location should change. The request will need to receive support from the majority to change.

5. Participation

Main and/or alternate council representatives will attend meetings and participate in activities relevant to their council. They will report to their respective councils about Working Group activities and will champion recommendations as appropriate their council.

Ara Tahi representatives will attend meetings and participate in activities relevant to their allocated area (East Coast: Wairarapa; West Coast: Otaki to Porirua; Central: Wellington and Hutt Valley). They will report to Ara Tahi and will champion recommendations as appropriate to their allocated area.

When relevant, additional Councillors from each council and/or representatives of the six mana whenua partners represented by Ara Tahi are welcome to attend meetings.

Relevant stakeholder groups can be invited to attend meetings.

6. Chair

A Chair and Deputy Chair will be elected by the main representatives (an alternate may vote on behalf of an absent main representative). A new Chair and Deputy Chair will be elected at least once every triennium following local government elections.

7. Administrative support:

Each council will ensure that the representatives participating in the Working Group are sufficiently supported by officers from their council. Greater Wellington Regional Council will support the Ara Tahi representatives in this regard.

Each council will provide reports and advice to the Working Group as required.

Secretariat support (i.e. developing the agenda and associated content) for meetings will be provided by Greater Wellington Regional Council. The host council will provide administrative support (i.e. venue, catering and logistical support).

8. Objectives

The objectives of the Working Group encompass climate change **mitigation** (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and **adaptation** (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise drought and enhanced natural hazards effects). The objectives are:

- a. Provide a forum for the region's councils and mana whenua to network, discuss issues, share information and build capability
- b. Provide a regional forum for dialogue with stakeholders
- c. Provide oversight of strategies, plans, research and initiatives being implemented or developed by councils within the region⁴ and where appropriate, align these activities to achieve greater consistency and efficiency
- d. Utilise the full range of skills and capabilities available in the region's local authorities and amongst other organisations to address the economic, social, environmental and cultural opportunities and consequences related to climate change
- e. Initiate joint projects/initiatives/campaigns that impact on, or require the active involvement of more than one local authority (by for example sharing capacity, budgets or joint steering committee)
- f. Enable the development of regionally consistent recommendations that could be considered and adopted by each council individually (within a timeframe that meets individual councils' needs)
- g. Act as a reference group to ensure consistent, integrated and coherent messaging for climate change related outreach and awareness-raising activities
- h. Provide a platform for joint advocacy and leadership – enabling the region's councils to speak with one voice when appropriate⁵ (for example by advocating to central government through the preparation of joint submissions on policy proposals)
- i. Enable the development and dissemination of joint communications to the public

⁴ Including the climate change related work progressed via the Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy

⁵ This approach would be consistent with that set out in the LGNZ Local Government Leaders Climate Change Declaration 2017



Report 18.68
Date 22 March
File CCAB-10-474

Committee Environment Committee
Author Nigel Corry, General Manager, Environment Management
Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management
Luke Troy, General Manager, Strategy

General Managers' report to the Environment Committee meeting on 22 March 2018

1. Purpose

To inform the Environment Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibilities.

2. Key/Strategic Issues

Regional Biodiversity Strategy Development

Planning is underway for the development of a regional biodiversity strategy. Staff will soon be running workshops with regional partners and stakeholders to gather views on how everyone in the region can work towards better outcomes for biodiversity.

MPI and MfE discussions

In recent weeks staff have had multiple meetings with Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry for the Environment staff. Topics have focused on the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry, government's one billion trees initiative and engagement with Regional Councils nationally. All of these government programmes and policies will have significant impacts on GWRC works. Further updates to follow.

2.1.1 Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease

The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Environmental Protection Authority have approved the importation and release of RHDV1-K5 virus. During April, GWRC will organise releases of the virus in rabbit prone sites around the region. Extensive public notifications and communication will precede the release.

3. Catchment Management

3.1 Biosecurity

3.1.1 Mycoplasma bovis response

Senior Biosecurity Officer Wayne Cowan continues his deployment to the national response team to help manage Restricted Places and conduct compliance audits on affected farms in Oamaru and Southland. Animal tracing work conducted by MPI has expanded the response programme and there are now dozens of properties in South Canterbury, Otago and Southland under movement control.

3.1.2 Pest plant inspections

Staff inspected 1227 properties surveying for new or existing infestations of pest plants under the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

As part of the National Pest Plant Accord programme our team inspected 93 plant outlets to identify any retail/wholesale/markets unlawfully selling pest plants.

3.2 Land Management

3.2.1 Riparian Programme

The Riparian programme is aimed at enabling landowners to comply with stock exclusion requirements from scheduled Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) Category 1 sites which begin to take effect on 31 July 2018.

In coordination with GWRC Environmental Regulation it has been agreed that landowners who have made a firm commitment to excluding stock and signing up to the Riparian programme will be given some leeway, if necessary, to meet the date requirements in the PNRP.

Progress to reach implementation targets have been challenged by multiple factors including:

- Regional shortages of fencing contractors and fencing supplies
- Complexities of each individual site requiring multiple site visits and meetings between landowners and GW staff.
- Landowner concerns around pest plant incursions into sites following stock exclusion.

GW staff intend to work collaboratively with landowners in order to find solutions to the challenges and maximise good practice outcomes with landowners through PNRP compliance.

3.2.2 Change to Land Management grant rates

Details about landowner grant rate changes are contained in this report. Future implications and the impact on works delivery due to landowner engagement will add valuable insight into the effectiveness of land-based works aimed at water quality improvement. This will provide Council with relevant

information regarding GW's ability to influence behaviour change through non-regulatory means to enable communities to meet future water quality objectives soon to be established by Waitua additions to the PNRP.

3.2.3 Wellington Region Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI) Programme

GW Land Management Advisors will plan the planting of around 25,000 poles this winter as well as overseeing the implementation of the twenty-two successful afforestation and reversion projects, covering 139 ha of erosion prone land, approved in November 2017.

In order to meet the requirements of GW's funding policy WRECI programme landowner grant rates have been reduced to account for appropriate cost apportionment of department costs.

An explanatory letter to all farmer clients has been mailed to WRECI customers after first being reviewed by members of the Farming Reference Group. We anticipate that there may be some concern from farmers around rising costs, however we are confident that the longevity and goodwill the programme has gained will ensure that demand for soil conservation planting will remain strong. There is an opportunity to revisit this grant rate following the renegotiating of our contract with MPI in the later part of this year which we expect to impact on the WRECI programme next winter and beyond.

3.2.4 Farm Environment Plans (FEP)

Similar to the WRECI adjustment of grant rate apportionment and consistency with GW funding policy, the FEP programme grant rates have also been adjusted. As a result of this, the contestable fund for the FEP programme has seen a number of changes.

- The previous sliding scale of grant rates of 30%, 50% or 70% depending on the type of project has been removed and now there will be only one grant rate.
- The grant rate will be set at 34% for all projects from 1 May 2018. As with the WRECI programme, this grant rate will incorporate the additional department costs
- Landowners engaged in the programme will shortly receive a letter advising them of the coming changes.

3.2.5 Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour

Discussions with Porirua City Council (PCC) staff are exploring whether PCC is able to support the FEP programme with funding support through the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour Strategy to maximise landowner engagement and uptake of works aimed at catchment water quality improvements.

3.2.6 Soil conservation and wetland management practices

GWRC Land Management, Biodiversity, Science, Policy and Regulation staff are working together to develop procedures for the implementation of some soil conservation (hill side planting) works that are potentially in conflict with the PNRP interpretation of *natural wetlands*. Introducing exotic species, such

as poplars typically used in soil conservation works, is not provided for by the applicable wetland rules in the PNRP. Staff intend to work through this winter planting season to gather information on the scale and significance of the issue and work towards a collaborative GWRC management practice where this potential conflict exists.

3.3 Flood Protection Implementation

3.3.1 RiverLink

RiverLink Preliminary Design peer review has been received in draft format and the project design team is considering the findings of the review. The draft review has found the design fit for purpose. The final peer review report will be issued at the end of March and reported to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee.

Draft RiverLink consent strategy has been developed and is being reviewed, RiverLink engagement strategy is in development to create a joint agency engagement approach for future project stages. A draft RiverLink delivery programme has been developed. All of these reports will be recommended to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee at its meeting in May 2018

27 Properties have been purchased and a further 51 are in various stages of negotiation.

RiverLink has participated in support of the summer events programme, mixing information events with recreation events to connect with a broader community base.

Belmont Wetland Trial designs have reached their final design stage. The design team has started work with Belmont School to involve their pupils in the wetland design development and plan for future planting days. Implementation of the wetland will be developed jointly between GWRC, HCC and HCC's stormwater infrastructure managers Wellington Water.



3.3.2 Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River Environment Strategy and Action Plan

Public information sessions were held in Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt to share the updated Hutt River Environment Strategy Action Plan (HRESAP) with the communities of the Hutt Valley. Opportunity to submit comments on the document is open until 9 March. The updated HRESAP will be recommended to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee later in the year.

3.3.3 Pinehaven Flood Management Plan and Upper Hutt City Council Plan Change 42

Plan Change 42 commissioners report has been publicised through the UHCC website. The report recommends notification of Plan Change 42. UHCC will consider the report at the end of March.

3.3.4 Lower Wairarapa Valley Scheme Update

Landowner negotiations have progressed for the Pukio East Dairy Ltd (PEDL) stopbank relocation project. Major works are programmed to commence next construction season subject to completing satisfactory agreements.

The Tauanui River project which realigns the confluence of the Tauanui River with the Ruamahanga River is well underway. The opening to the Ruamahanga River and the stopbank alignments are complete.



Tauanui River confluence realignment 12 February 2018

Proposed new opening (before it was opened) to the left of the machinery with the Ruamahanga River on the right.



Tauanui River confluence realignment 5 March 2018

New opening through to the Ruamahanga River

3.4 Operations, Delivery and Planning

3.4.1 Western Operations

The recent cyclone Gita caused damage along the Kapiti Coast and staff have worked significant hours to cut river mouths and remove blockages. There have also been a number of private enquiries for advice and assistance.



Waimeha Stream channel mouth blocked by debris from ex-Cyclone Gita storm surge.
February 2018

The PP20 Expressway works are now ramping up with work impacting on the Otaki River and the Mangone and Waitohu Streams.

The Hutt River gravel grab was held on the 10th February with a good turn out from the public. The successful Hutt River Bike the Trail took place on the 4th March and was well supported with a large number of participants. The Otaki River gravel grab is planned for the 17th of March.

3.4.2 Asset Management and Operations Planning

Staff are providing leadership for a national river assets user-group, to develop and improve a code of practise for asset performance. A successful workshop involving 10 Council's was held in Wellington on 22 February. The tool enables the performance of flood protection assets to be assessed for various river reaches.

3.5 Investigations, Strategy and Planning

3.5.1 Waiohine Flood Management Plan (FMP)

The Project Team has made good progress and is working together well. The Project Team facilitator has estimated progress at 30%. Major work areas have included:

- Development and calibration of a new flood model, using new technology to represent a much finer level of detail
- Fields associated with the modelling, such as historical floods, hydrology, climate change, uncertainties
- Examining design horizons and levels of flood protection
- Stakeholder engagement.

The immediate focus of the Project Team will continue to be freeboard, uncertainties and flood mapping because these lie on the critical path of the project. There is also a push to engage (or re-engage) with iwi and stakeholders before looking at any detail at river management, stopbanks or other flood management responses.

Stakeholder feedback to date has raised questions for the Project Team around how this FMP fits with the wider aspirations of the community around the river environment and integrated catchment management. In particular, questions have been asked about how the FMP will relate to the Whaitua process. We would like to seek input from the community about their vision for the river, and ways to achieve community “guardianship” during the implementation of the FMP. Some stakeholders are concerned that the scope/terms of reference for the Project Team’s work, being focussed on managing risk from floods and erosion, are too narrow.

A key focus for the Project Team at present is the development of new flood maps. The mapping is being revised due to concerns raised by the community in response to the (now revoked) draft FMP and also by matters raised by the Independent Auditor and previously reported to this Committee. This revision of the flood mapping is critical to progress on the FMP because we must first agree what the flood hazard is before we decide how it should be managed.

The underlying hydraulic model (flood model) has been revised and is currently being peer-reviewed. Preliminary results from the model indicate a significantly smaller flood spread than the previous mapping which is currently in use by GWRC and SWDC. These preliminary results make the same assumptions about climate change and “freeboard” (uncertainties) as the previous mapping because those two topics have yet to be completed by the Project Team, working with the hydraulic modelling consultant. These will be included in the final mapping later this year.

3.5.2 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga River FMP

Both workstreams of FMP development - rural and Masterton urban – are continuing.

The revised Volumes 1 and 2 were presented to Masterton District Council (MDC) and Carterton District Council (CDC) at separate workshops in early February 2018. There is general support from the councils proceeding to public consultation with these two documents. A report is being presented to CDC regarding the TKURFMP at a meeting on 28 March 2018.

With consultation on GWRC’s draft Long Term Plan (LTP) commencing in March and being endorsed by council in June 2018, the decision has been made to delay public consultation of TKURFMP Volumes 1 and 2 until July 2018. The TKURFMP Subcommittee has been briefed on this decision.

Work continues on modelling the agreed Waipoua hydrology to feed into options development for Masterton.

4. Biodiversity

4.1 Biodiversity Management

4.1.1 Key Native Ecosystem programme

- OSPRI is planning the Northern Remutaka Aerial 1080 operation from July. This will include the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo and Pakuratahi KNE sites. The treatment of 1080 at Wainuiomata/Orongorongo KNE site

will allow GWRC to reduce rat baiting with the Wainuiomata Mainland Island. This will allow staff to be able to focus on trap and bait station repairs instead

- Contractors and the Biosecurity Pest Plants team have made good use of the favourable weather and delivery of the KNE pest plants control programme is on schedule

4.1.2 Wetland programme

- Four landowners have signed up to the Wetland Programme; Trimble Trust wetland (north of Masterton), Kawakawa Dune Hollow (in Palliser Bay), Willy Cranswick wetland (south east of Masterton), Ian Napier's wetland (east of Clareville)
- Four restoration management plans have been approved for wetlands at Moeraki and Kaiwaka (in eastern Wairarapa), and for Stonestead (near Greytown) and Blue Mountain Bush Swamp Forest (Whitemans Valley). The Wetland Programme will fund fencing to exclude stock at these sites as well plants for restoration, and pest control for up to three years, depending on the requirements of the site
- Biodiversity staff are investigating how the Wetland Programme can support Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki with weed control and planting in the Katihuku wetland. This site is scheduled as significant in the pNRP and is also part of the Otaki Coast Key Native Ecosystem site

4.2 Biodiversity Advice and Advocacy

4.2.1 Biodiversity Advice

- The department is developing guidance for protecting lizards as part of the resource consenting process. Following the example of Auckland Council, the guidance will focus on improving the quality of consent conditions with the aim of protecting lizards and their habitat from the pressures of development. Workshops with iwi, district councils and other stakeholders are underway and a final output is expected by the end of the year

4.2.2 Collaborative Restoration: Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project

- The 'Mountains to Moana' event was hosted by the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project and the Greater Wellington Great Outdoors programme at western Lake Wairarapa on 3 February. This event promoted knowledge of wetlands (timed to coincide with World Wetlands Day 2018) and taught participants about wetland wildlife and the need to protect their natural stream and wetland habitats



Fig 1. 'Mountains to Moana' wetlands event hosted by the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project and the Greater Wellington Great Outdoors programme at western Lake Wairarapa on 3 February

- The annual Lake Wairarapa kākahi (freshwater mussel) survey was held on 7 February at Wairarapa Lake Shore Scenic Reserve. Staff supported more than 30 volunteers who worked in ten teams. Each team surveyed a length of 50 metres in water near the lake shore. The kākahi were counted and measured and data recorded



Fig 2. Lake Wairarapa Kākahi survey held on 7 February at Wairarapa Lake Shore Scenic Reserve

4.2.3 Biodiversity Advocacy

- Seaweek (3-11 March) is a national week of awareness-raising that is coordinated in the Wellington region by GWRC. The theme of Seaweek is "Toiora te Moana – Toiora te Tangata – Healthy Seas, Healthy People". Seaweek focuses on learning from the sea. It's about exciting and inspiring all New Zealanders to renew their connections with the sea
- Restoration Day planning is progressing well, with the schedule for the day now complete and invitations posted on Nature Space and sent to previous participants, with registration opening in mid-March
- A staff member represented GWRC at a Wairarapa "Meet the providers" meeting hosted by Enviroschools staff. This was an opportunity for councils and organisations to inform educators about the educational resources and support that they offer. Teachers from many schools, early childhood and other educational centres across the Wairarapa attended

5. Environment Management

5.1 Harbours

5.1.1 Recreational boating

Several “No Excuses” days have been held in conjunction with Maritime NZ. This included one on Saturday 3rd March working from the Police Launch *Lady Elizabeth IV*. The focus was boating around Kapiti Island and this was very well received. All the No Excuses days have gone well and resulted in good profile for the organisations involved and promotion of our safety messages. There has been good coverage on social and mainstream media.



The Wellington Boat show was held at Seaview on from 9 to 11 March. GW Harbours shared a stall with Maritime NZ. One of our boats was used as a draw card and the location for a safety hide and seek exercise for children, this proved very popular.

The stall was manned throughout the show by the Harbour’s team and Maritime NZ staff. This provided a good opportunity for public interaction, and shared messaging across both organisations.

Our safe boating packs were handed out along with the safe boating messages and advice. Lifejackets and a marine VHF radio were given away as prizes and these competitions proved popular.



5.1.2 Pollution prevention and response

While the Queen Mary2 (pictured below) was in Wellington on March 2nd they reported an oil sheen ahead of them. This was investigated and although nothing was seen, reports and traces of oil here are not unusual. It is suspected they come from storm water outlets. For the most part only a thin sheen is evident, but occasionally more significant discharges have occurred. This raises the risk of a visiting cruise ship getting its hull fouled.



5.1.3 Navigational Safety

Ex Cyclone Fehi caused very high tides in Porirua Harbour resulting in the marina being closed due to floating debris and ropes crossing the marina to help secure vessels, this was cleared the following day.

We were involved in the re-floating of an uninsured yacht at Mana, the owner was instructed to take the offer of additional assistance (at his cost) in the initial re-floating attempt to improve the chances of success. The yacht was refloated successfully with no damage to the vessel, minimal cost to the owner and no cost or other issues for GWRC. The conditions for the following days would have meant any subsequent attempt to shift the yacht would have been significantly more difficult, and costly.

We met with the guide of the kayaking group that got into difficulties on the harbour with Cruise ship passengers as clients. We reviewed and discussed the incident and looked at how to avoid this situation repeating.

One infringement notice has been issued for speeding close to shore; two others are likely to be issued, one for speeding and one for impeding a ship.

5.1.4 Other

Our staff have had extensive dealing with the NZ Festival organisers of the grand, on the water, opening of the NZ Festival this year. This involved both prior planning and on the water patrolling for the practice and final event, all very fluid with effects of ex cyclone Gita almost keeping the waka hourua from attending.

We get involved in various exercises, both in planning and organisation. Recently this has included a security exercise on the cruise ship *Ovation of the Seas* (on a Sunday morning, to fit the ships schedule) planning for a ship borne pandemic exercise and a mass rescue exercise after a fire on a cruise ship. These exercises are important to refine and improve emergency plans but just as importantly enables us to meet and work with the people and agencies that we need to co-operate with in the real event.

6. Environmental Regulation

6.1.1 Waiwhetu – bore security investigation

Our investigation of the six 'high risk' bores within the Waiwhetu aquifer has concluded with located at the hospital in Lower Hutt needing some minor work. All other bores could not be located – something we suspected given their age and possible inaccuracies in the GIS location information. We will also be working with Wellington Water to gain better information on water supply bore (both current and historical) quality and risk.

6.1.2 Kapiti Coast – bore security investigation

We have almost completed a bore assessment exercise of groundwater supply protection areas on the Kapiti Coast. We are collating our findings over the next month to determine further actions on any bores that may present a risk to the water supply.

6.1.3 Havelock North Inquiry response – Regional Water Supply forum

GWRC, Wellington Water, Regional Public Health and Territorial Authorities across the region are currently in the process of formalising our respective roles and working arrangements with regard to drinking water protection via an MOU. This is reported further as Report 18.63 in this order paper.

6.1.4 Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) – Water Supply (river recharge) project

With the dry weather over the last few months, KCDC has partially activated its river recharge system. The project has been fully complying with its consent conditions during this time.

6.1.5 WIAL Airport runway extension

WIAL has submitted a request to the Environment Court to adjourn its application for a further 9 months. This extension of time would allow WIAL to re-apply to the Director of Civil Aviation for approval to operate the extended runway as proposed.

The Environment Court has called for comments on this request. Parties with an interest in the proposal have been discussing the implications of this delay, and whether the community should be consulted with again given the time that has passed since the application was originally consulted on. As such, the question of re-notification has been raised. We are considering this question at the time of writing this report, however should WIAL's proposal remain unchanged then our preliminary view is that we wouldn't consider public re-notification to be necessary.

6.1.6 T and T Landfill/ Owhiro Stream

With the stormwater diversions complete, we have moved into a water quality monitoring phase, and reviewing data collected during rainfall events. This project is now much lower risk due to the completed actions onsite. We are planning another community day at the Owhiro Bay School in April to bring the community up to speed with the actions completed onsite – and elsewhere in the wider catchment too.

6.1.7 Western waterwater – notified consent

Wellington Water Limited (WWL) have applied to remove a condition on a consent they currently hold for the western WWTP at Karori. The condition requires the pipeline from the plant to the south coast to be replaced in 2023. WWL consider the pipeline still has an operational life out to 2035. Given this matter was the subject of an appeal and a Environment Court ruling in 2006, WWL requested public notification. We are in the submissions period at present, with this closing at the end of March. A hearing date has tentatively been set down for the 3 or 4 May 2018.

6.1.8 Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant re consenting

Application assessment is continuing for Featherston wastewater discharge re-consenting. We are currently awaiting information, with the potential to further discuss issues around mitigating effects on the receiving environment with the SWDC team - in an attempt to find an agreed way forward prior to formal notification of the application.

6.1.9 Roads of National Significance (RoNS) Projects

(a) Transmission Gully (TG) and Porirua Link Roads (PLRs)

By early February the TG project had moved five million cubic metres of earth since construction started, and expect to move an additional 1 – 1.5 million cubic metres by the end of this earthworks season. The project is currently at or about its peak area of earthworks, with open area to be reduced substantially heading into winter. Approximately half of the 1.7km Te Puka Stream diversion and a third of the 2.4 km Horokiri Stream diversions have been 'livened' to date. CPB HEB JV intend to plant approximately One million plants this winter planting season (landscape and ecological mitigation planting) and Site Specific Environmental Management Plans (SSEMPs) giving planting details will need to be certified prior to that. Officers are currently working through updates to the Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) associated with this mitigation work as well. The resource consent and certification workloads on both TG and PLRs remain at a moderate level for now.

(b) Peka Peka to Ōtaki

Enabling works along the alignment and permanent work around the SH1 bridge in Otaki continue. Enabling works associated with the new Otaki River bridge works abutment and pier works abutment works have also commenced. The site is being audited by GWRC compliance officers. Bulk earthworks are expected to commence in April, with SSEMPs requiring certification in advance.

6.1.10 National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF)

A very productive and informative workshop was held with Ministry of Primary Industry, GWRC and local forestry companies in Masterton in early March. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure the forestry industry was aware of the implications of the forthcoming NES-PF.

The NES-PF will come into effect on 1 May 2018. Previously, the rules governing forestry activities were provided in district and regional council plans. These rules were designed to take into account local environmental conditions and community priorities. A new nationally consistent set of regulations has now been created.

The NES-PF permit core forestry activities provided there are no significant adverse environmental effects. Where the forest operator can't meet the regulatory requirements for a permitted activity under the NES-PF, the operator will need to apply for resource consent. At the same time, the regulations recognise that different rules may be needed to manage some specific local circumstances and give effect to other RMA national direction tools such as the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. Councils will be able to impose stricter rules in unique and sensitive environments, including those with special significance to the community. Whether stricter Rules are necessary is currently being assessed through the PNRP process.

In most cases, the regulations do not cover plantation forestry activities that occur outside the boundaries of the forest land, such as the effects of logging trucks using public roads. Existing regional and district plan rules will continue to apply to the activities and effects that are outside the scope of the regulations; examples include, cultural and historic heritage, agrichemical use, burning, water yield and milling and processing activities.

New RMA provisions also allow councils to charge for monitoring permitted activities under the proposed NES-PF.

A further workshop with the industry is planned prior to the NES-PF coming into force.

6.1.11 Significant Investigations and Enforcement

The Environmental Protection Team has responded to an increased number of notifications over this period (due in part to the significant weather events). There are ongoing investigations instigated during this period but no significant investigations have been closed.

We have one live case before the courts, a prosecution for works in the bed of a river. This is still waiting to proceed to trial.

6.2 Environmental Science

6.2.1 Toxic algae flushed

The continued warm weather over the summer at the start of the year meant that the toxic algal blooms remained problematic in Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River. Heavy rain in mid-February however caused a series of 'flushing' flows

that removed much of the toxic algae. Unless there are extended periods of warm, dry weather, there should be no more issues with toxic algae for the rest of the summer. Warning signs, that were placed the length of the Hutt River, are now being taken down.



Drone footage shows the dry conditions along the Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River.

Mark Heath presented on the toxic algae issue at Seaweeek 2018, an annual event coordinated by the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education (NZAEE) and supported by Greater Wellington Regional Council. His talk was well attended with several questions relating to the amount of toxins that might get into the water.

6.2.2 Interactive Maps show Future Climate Change

Want to know what the predicted rainfall in 2040 could be in Wellington? Or how hot it might become by 2090? People interested in how climate change may affect the region now have access to interactive climate change maps. Our Senior Climate Scientist has worked with our ICT department to create these maps using data from NIWA's latest climate change report. It is hoped that the interactive maps will make climate change data more understandable and accessible to the general public.

Two interactive future climate change maps are now available online; a user-friendlier ['story map'](#) aimed at the general public, and one in [GIS layer format](#) aimed at those with GIS knowledge. The data shows for example that by 2090 the Wairarapa will be 3°C warmer and Wellington city 2.5°C warmer than now with more extreme rainfall events.

For more information, and to listen to our own Chris Laidlaw talking about climate change, check out GWRC's webpage on [climate change](#).



Front page of new interactive StoryMap for Wellington Region.

6.2.3 Hydrology Wins

At the recent NZ Hydrological Society Technical Workshop, Ethan Coulston (Environmental monitoring officer) scooped the award for Best Young Presenter with his talk “Korokoro flood warning”. Ethan’s talk focused on the Korokoro Stream catchment flood warning network designed to provide early warning for NZTA and MetService. The award is sponsored by ENVCO and includes paid travel and registration to the Australian Hydrographers Association conference in Melbourne in November.

The hydrology field team has been out testing the new Cable Fox cableway traveller and a nifty gadget that uses a laser beam to measure water flow at the Taita Gorge site. It measured some of the highest flows since manual measurement in 1997. These new instruments allow the team to measure water flow remotely from the bank. This is a great example of investing in new technology to enhance Health & Safety and still allow this type of valuable information to be collected.



Left: Ethan accepting his award. Centre and Right: The CableWay traveller and RDI RiverPro ADCP (aka nifty gadget).

6.2.4 Soil Vulnerability Mapping

A recently completed report by the Terrestrial Ecosystems and Quality team details the vulnerability of different soils to nitrate and phosphorus leaching, microbial and soil runoff potential for the Wairarapa and Otaki valleys. The

maps produced indicate vulnerable areas in relation to granting consents for land activities such as effluent field consents. This information will be useful for the Environmental Regulation department. It will also provide valuable information for the development of the Ruamahanga whitua implementation plan.

6.2.5 Whitua and Collaborative Modelling Projects (CMP)

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua Committee had their first meeting for 2018 last week (8 March) and they were presented with the baseline modelling. The committee was very receptive to the information with one member say "I was really scared and dreading coming tonight and being overwhelmed but I got it and enjoyed it".

The final technical reports from the Ruamahanga Whitua Collaborative Modelling project have been completed. A small amount of further analysis to assist with limit setting is being undertaken.

A consultant is being engaged to lead the set-up of the Wellington-Hutt Valley Whitua committee. The consortium report on the whitua process will be used to assist with engagement and set-up.

6.2.6 Citizen science

The next National Advisory Group for Citizen Science meeting will be held early April with updates on the new SHAMKit and manual, and NIWA's SHMAK database. We have been involved in trials of the new SHMAKit protocols with user groups.

Also coming up is the Citizen Science Symposium, hosted by NZ Landcare Trust, 7th to 9th April. We are involved in a full day freshwater monitoring workshop 8th April that will involve fish monitoring, invertebrate identification, looking at DIY *E. coli* testing and other sampling using the components of the SHMAK kit produced by NIWA.

Community care groups continue to contact the Environmental Science department for advice on starting citizen science projects. A brochure has been produced to help advertise what GWRC can offer in this space.

Staff have been out and about on field trips over the last couple of months with various groups such as:

- Kia mauri ora te Kaiwharawhara - a bus tour of Kaiwharawhara catchment organised by Taranaki Whānui as part of the Sanctuary to Sea project.
- Training workshop with Friends of Waiwhetu on how to use the Freshwater Stream Health and Monitoring Assessment Kit, do electric fishing and identify fish.



Left: Kokopu discovered in Waiwhetu Stream. Right: Holden Hohia welcomes attendees on Kia mauri ora te Kaiwharawhara hiko.

Future workshops include:

- How to use the SHMAkit with the Water Race Users group, Wairarapa
- How to use *E. coli* films for bacterial counts with Wellington East Girl's College in Waitangi Stream

Two interns, from Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affaris (USA,) start with us mid-March and will be focusing on delivering various citizen science initiatives in the Kaiwharawhara catchment in conjunction with DoC.

6.3 Environmental Policy

6.3.1 City and District Council plan changes and resource consents

Overview

Territorial Authority	Status of Document	Name of Document	Main topics commented on	Action
Hutt City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed plan change 43 Residential and Suburban Mixed use	Strong direction provided for use of water sensitive urban design to address responsibilities for water quality effects from built development as well as stormwater management methods, urban design and support for public transport and active modes of transport.	Submission lodged 9 March 2018
Hutt City Council	Draft discussion document	Wainuiomata North Structure Plan	Consistency with the RLTP and biodiversity guidance documents, travel demand management, and the integration of land use and transportation.	Draft plan produced reflected the workshop discussions
Upper Hutt City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed plan change 42 Mangaroa and Pinehaven Flood Hazard Extents	Flood hazard and policy provisions.	Decision version received by UHCC for approval by Council

Territorial Authority	Status of Document	Name of Document	Main topics commented on	Action
Porirua City Council	Draft discussion document	District Plan Review "Make your mark "	Alignment with policy and operational matters.	Discussion occurring on urban design and infrastructure
Kapiti Coast District Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed District Plan 2012 and Variation 1 to the Proposed District Plan – Urban Trees	Consistency with previous submission.	Joined 7 appeals as section 274 party for biodiversity, centres policy and hazard management
South Wairarapa District Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed Plan Change No.9: Greytown Development Area Structure Plan	Alignment with policy and operational matters, particularly stormwater management and flood hazard provisions.	No need for a further submission. Awaiting hearing date

Hutt City Council: Plan Change 43

Hutt City Council have undertaken a complete review of the general residential, suburban centre and residential intensification provisions in their district plan. The aim is to allow for increased housing capacity in the city and a revitalised city and suburban centres.

The plan change provisions and a design guide aim to manage any adverse effects on neighbours promote high quality, high amenity intensification of development primarily around the existing suburban centres and transport hubs. The city centre and Petone are excluded from the medium density growth areas awaiting further work.

Our submission supports the overall approach in the plan change as it meets many of the Regional Policy Statement requirements and Regional Land Transport Plan objectives for management of natural hazards, encouragement of sustainable active transport modes and support for public transport.

We support the provisions for management of stormwater quantity but make a strong case for integrating water sensitive urban design principles into the provisions. This will assist in maintaining or improving water quality as required by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. These design ideas also add to the amenity, liveability and resilience of built development.

Kāpiti Appeals

We were served with 11 appeals from other parties on the KCDC decision version of their district plan. We have joined as party to seven of these appeals which seek changes to stormwater management provisions, the hierarchy of town centres, hazard management provisions, coastal management and

biodiversity. Our role is to support KCDC in maintaining the policy direction of the RPS. Mediation on the appeals will start in late April.

6.3.2 Regional Council input into city and district council planning

Attached as **Attachment 1** is a memorandum on Regional Council input into city and district council planning.

6.3.3 Draft swimming targets

MfE has completed its reporting on modelling for the draft swimming targets, as introduced via the 2017 update to the 2014 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

Current committed work shifts the Wellington region to 75% (from 67%) swimmable rivers by 2030. This shows that the rules in the proposed Natural Resources Plan do improve rivers for swimming. The current modelling also excludes our whitua process which will improve swimming quality further.

You will be updated via email about the process for online publication of these draft targets. We will also update you further on the results of the 'What Spot?' summer swimming survey.

6.3.4 Proposed Natural Resources Plan update

Hearing Stream 4: Water Quality and Stormwater began on 12 February and concluded on 7 March. Note that this hearing stream presents the greatest risk to the plan framework, and to Council in terms of costs of plan implementation, if the Panel do not accept our recommendations.

The next hearing topics for Hearing Stream 5 are Beds of lakes and rivers; Wetlands and biodiversity; Discharges to land. Key dates for Hearing Stream 5 are:

- Section 42A reports available online on 12 March 2018
- Submitters to request additional time/speaker slots by 16 March
- Expert evidence due for pre-circulation on 26 March
- Evidence to be tabled in lieu of appearance due on 29 March
- Hearing commences 10 April for three weeks.

6.4 Parks

6.4.1 Parks network

With the continuation of good weather, park visitation remains high and there have been very few issues with user conflict or otherwise inappropriate behaviour. Feedback from the Greater Wellington Great Outdoors Programme remains extremely positive, with participants very much enjoying the events, meeting the staff and finding out what GWRC does. We are observing that participants are travelling some distances throughout the region to attend events, and that we are attracting people from more diverse backgrounds than in past years.

Parks inspection procedures are being drafted covering a range of asset types – fences, roads, structures, buildings, tracks, historic, signs and furniture. A

procedures report is expected to be completed in the next period. Early indications are there will be staff capacity limitations affecting the delivery of the inspection programme.

6.4.2 Queen Elizabeth Park

Plans for the proposed new exit road at Mackays Crossing entrance are being finalised for tender and are with NZTA for their approval. The project includes construction of a new carpark servicing the new Ramaroa visitor complex.

Damage and repairs following ex-tropical cyclone Gita were felt hardest in the parks network on the coastal areas of Queen Elizabeth Park. Driving wave action and sea borne debris destroyed sections the footbridge at the mouth of the Wainui/Te Puka Stream at Paekakariki, resulting in its removal. There was a significant volume of drift wood debris built up at this mouth along with Whareroa Stream, spilling onto roads and carparks along the entire length of low lying coast. Wave action scoured the base of dunes, particularly along the northern section of the popular Coastal Track. This section of track is now closed until alternative access can be provided. The immediate repair costs to date along with asset replacement values are displayed in the graph below.

Despite the clear evidence of damage, there was significant community protest at the removal of the footbridge. Parks has worked with the local Community Board and through Cr Gaylor to outline the extent of damage, and give assurances that removal was justified.

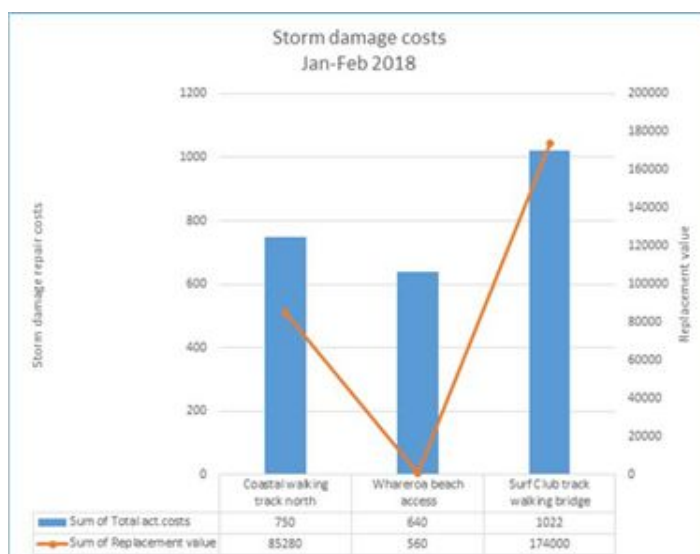
With these intense weather patterns expected to continue, Parks is stepping up our engagement with both the Paekakariki and Paraparaumu-Raumati Community Boards, to build awareness of impacts on the park and discuss desired outcomes for a “managed retreat” of park infrastructure from the coast. The most significant area of works will be at Wainui Beach where we expect changes to the road, carpark, toilets and access tracks.



Coastal track damage showing a) dune undercutting and b) inundation of a section of the track.



Paekakariki footbridge damaged by sea action and debris.



6.4.3 Whitireia Park

Cyclone Gita caused minor damage to low lying coastal facilities in this park. The sea spilled over the main access road to Kaitawa Point – leaving a build-up of debris. The Park got off lightly compared with the western facing coastline in nearby Titahi Bay (where boatsheds were severely damaged). The investment in relocating the coastal track in Whitireia to a higher level a few years ago has paid itself off.

6.4.4 Akatarawa Forest

The Perhams Road Bailey Bridge is currently under close watch due to potential abutment failure (due to stream bank collapse). A resource consent application is being drafted for the installation of a new culvert along Perhams Road (enabling the old bridge to eventually be removed).

Discussions continue with Mr. Bradley (Cannonpoint Properties) and UHCC over the future of the Cannon Point Walkway.

6.4.5 Pakuratahi Forest

We have completed preliminary scoping of vegetation control work and biocide application to protect heritage structures eg stone bridge abutments. The field work is expected start in the next period and will be supported with a communications plan, as the vegetation control work in particular will be very visible.

Culvert installation at Station Drive is currently in progress – replacing a collapsing forestry culvert with a longer lasting plastic pipe.



6.4.6 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Track surfacing improvements are in progress in the Bush Reserve – along the loop track that heads to Battle Hill summit. A helicopter was used to lift in gravel, providing a spectacle of interest for campers and other park users nearby.

Earthworks are well underway in preparation for construction of the RDA covered arena building in upper Abbots Field.

6.4.7 Belmont Regional Park

The Woollen Mills Dam fish passage construction and spillway repairs are complete. This is the last of the repairs across the Parks network that stemmed from the May 2015 flooding event.



Woollen Mills Dam – showing the new fish pass (left) and resurfaced spillway (right).

6.4.8 East Harbour Regional Park

Work building the Harbour Views track from Muritai Rd has reached the first destination point - the Main Ridge. Track drainage and surfacing work will be completed over the next period, along with further track work along the Mackenzie track (down toward Butterfly Creek).

The Baring Head vehicle bridge replacement project is progressing through the resource consents process. Works will be tendered shortly.

At the Lighthouse Complex, working bees have continued with volunteers to tidy up the interior of the garage and generator building so they can be used as a base for projects.

6.4.9 Kaitoke Regional Park

The summer started very early with the long dry spell through November and has remained busy since then with Wellington receiving good warm weather. Camping revenue is on track to again exceed \$100,000.

The inaugural Just So Festival NZ was held at Kaitoke 23-25 February. Developed in the UK it is the only arts camping festival dedicated solely to children and their families. It offers an array of literature, art, theatre, dance, music, comedy, circus, and creative adventures in a natural and safe setting. This was a concessioned and ticketed event with 607 festival goers camping over in the park on the Top terrace, plus another 160 day ticket holders. Over 1,000 people (including performers) were on site on the Saturday and feedback from the attendees has been very positive. Park Rangers also guided festival goers on forest walks during the weekend.

6.4.10 Plantation Forestry

Stoney Creek

Harvesting of logs has commenced in the Stoney Creek Forest Reserve. This is the beginning of a ten year harvest operation with approximately 100 hectares of mature radiata forest being harvested each year for the next ten years.

A 7 lot rural subdivision within the Stoney Creek Forest Reserve has been granted by the SWDC. Preparation is now underway to meet the conditions of consent. Once this has been undertaken it is intended to gift a shed and land to NZ Fire and Emergency and a hall and land to the Tukurumuri Hall Society Inc. A surplus three bedroom dwelling and land will also be disposed of, although it is unclear how. Options include open market sale, or further consideration of a proposal from the local community involving GWRC support of an endeavour to promote community growth and the sustainance of Tukurimuri School which may involve some form of land gifting. Further development on this community proposal is needed for due consideration by Council.

Metro Forests

GW, PF Olsen and UHCC hosted a community meeting at the Mangaroa School on 13th February to update the community on harvesting plans for the Mangaroa Forest off Collett's Road. Timing for this work is still on hold as access to the forest is resolved.

6.4.11 Regional Trails Framework

A new Regional trails coordinator has been employed via WREDA and started work on a part time basis on 5th March. Leasa Carlyon's first initiatives will be getting out through the region to meet the various stakeholders and setting up the community forum and governance group.

6.4.12 Remutaka Cycle Trail

Funding has been approved through MBIE for DOC sections of the trail that include a 85m bridge across Siberia Gully and further trail upgrades on the South Coast.

Five new ecocounters (funded by MBIE) have been installed across the RCT that provide real time data on usage via 3G networks and web based software. The counters differentiate between walkers and cyclists and also direction of travel. Early data shows 77% of users on the Rail Trail are cyclists (68% on Hutt River Trail at Boulcott) and use peaked at around 260 users on weekend days in February.

7. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

8. Engagement

Engagement on this matter is not necessary.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager, Environment
Management

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager,
Catchment Management

Luke Troy
General Manager,
Strategy

Attachment 1: Regional Council input into city and district council planning



MEMO

TO All Councillors
 FROM Lucy Harper, Team Leader Environmental Policy
 DATE 8 March 2018
 DOCUMENT REF ENVPOL1-5-72

Regional Council input into city and district council planning

1. Purpose

To inform Councillors of Greater Wellington Regional Council’s input into the statutory resource management processes of territorial authorities in the region for the period from 6 February 2018 to 9 March 2018.

GWRC’s interest arises from the Council’s responsibilities for regional planning and the integrated management of natural and physical resources in the Wellington Region.

2. City and District Council plan changes and resource consents

Territorial Authority	Status of Document	Name of Document	Main topics commented on	Action
Hutt City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed plan change 43 Residential and Suburban Mixed use	Strong direction provided for use of water sensitive urban design to address responsibilities for water quality effects from built development as well as stormwater management methods, urban design and support for public transport and active modes of transport.	Submission lodged 9 March 2018

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Hutt City Council	Draft discussion document	Wainuiomata North Structure Plan	Consistency with the RLTP and biodiversity guidance documents, travel demand management, and the integration of land use and transportation	HCC held a three day workshop, attended by GWRC. HCC now to prepare a draft plan due early 2018 for comment
Upper Hutt City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed plan change 42 Mangaroa and Pinehaven Flood Hazard Extents	Flood hazard and policy provisions	Decision version received by UHCC for approval by Council
Porirua City Council	Draft discussion document	District Plan Review "Make your mark "	Alignment with policy and operational matters	Discussion occurring on urban design and infrastructure
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