

Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee Meeting 7 Notes

Monday 19 August 2019, 9:15am-4:15pm
Greater Wellington Regional Council Chambers, Walter St

Contents

Attendees	1
Action points	2
Decisions reached	2
Meeting notes	3
Session 1: Open meeting	3
Session 2: Communications and Engagement Subgroup update	3
Session 3: Policy Subgroup update	4
Session 4: Science Subgroup update	4
Session 5: Understanding the urban footprint	5
Session 6: The biophysical effects of our urban activities on rivers and coasts	7
Session 7: The underpinnings – the infrastructure requirement and 3 waters network	7
Session 8: Current approach in urban planning and planning for growth.....	8
Session 9: Co-chairs wrap up	8

Attendees

Committee members:

Louise Askin, Roger Blakeley (until 3:00pm), Peter Gilberd, Tui Lewis, Pete Matcham, Zoe Ogilvie, Jonny Osborne, Anya Pollock, Kara Puketapu-Dentice (from 10:45am), Hikitia Ropata (until 1:00PM), Paul Swain, Gabriel Tupou (from 10:45am), Pat van Berkel

Apologies: Quentin Duthie, Wayne Guppy, Naomi Solomon

Project Team:

Tim Sharp, Phill Barker, Matt Hickman, Anna Martin, Kat Banyard, Denise Young, Richard Sheild, Mark Heath, Jon Gabites, Sharyn Westlake (GWRC), Onur Oktem (WCC), David Burt (HCC), James McKibbin (UHCC), Grace Katene (Ngāti Toa)

Apologies: Arpan Mukherjee (GWRC), Pekaira Jude, Tamahau Rowe (PNBST), Emily Osborne (GWRC), Helen Bolton (WCC), Brent King (GWRC)

Speakers and other attendees (in addition to Project Team members): Evan Harrison (GWRC), Claire Conwell (GWRC), Rob Blakemore (WWL), Kate Pascall (WCC), Laurence Edwards (WWL), Nadia Nitsche (WWL).

Action points

Project Team:

- Provide analytics on how many hits the whitua page on the GW website and the Facebook page are getting.
- Email issues list from previous meeting with the meeting minutes.
- Provide draft plan for deliberations phase.
- Update map on Terms of Reference fixing errors.
- Meeting papers to be emailed as one PDF document in one email.
- Arrange for Co-chairs to present to councils after elections.
- Provide policy context schematic or paper.

Co-chairs:

- Consider whether to contact local body election candidates to provide information about the whitua process.
- Plan to present to all councils after elections.
- Consider options for engaging with NPS-UD, e.g., a submission or reviewing GW's submission.
- Set up a meeting with developers for October field trip.

Committee members:

- Like Whitua Facebook page, share posts and add comments
- Add to Events log in Sharepoint
- Send through ideas for posts of interest to Zoe for Facebook page.
- Email Emily/Kat if you want to be on the Science Subgroup. Science Subgroup to discuss Terms of Reference at first meeting.
- Start looking at previous WIPs on relevant urban topics.

Communications and Engagement subgroup:

- Terms of Reference to be finalised.
- Draft back-pocket questions Committee can use at local body election events.
- Update the tactical plan based on comments outlined in Session 2 of these notes.

Policy subgroup:

- Terms of Reference to be finalised with agreed changes.
- Process for issues list to be confirmed.

Decisions reached

- Both the Policy Subgroup and Communications and Engagement Subgroup Terms of Reference were agreed to subject to changes as outlined in these notes.
-

Meeting notes

Session 1: Open meeting

- Louise opened with a karakia.
- Meeting 6 notes confirmed.
- Tim talked through current actions, including standing items for the Committee.
- Committee members can start using the log of events in SharePoint.
- Confirmation of documents to go on website – final meeting notes, reports, presentations, and Co-Chairs updates.
- Project Team to provide analytics for use of TWT webpage on GWRC site and Facebook page.

Co-chairs update (Louise) – [see paper](#):

- SharePoint discussion board has been set up and Committee members encouraged to use this between meetings.
- In response to feedback, planning for more dynamic meeting format including breakout sessions for discussion.
- The parking lot or 'Eddie' will capture ideas raised for future meetings or discussion on SharePoint.
- Upper Hutt fieldtrip is 20 August.
- Paul Swain's final meeting will be September. He will on-board the new regional council appointee to the Committee.
- Louise and Kara updated GWRC's Environment Committee last week. They were well received and good questions were asked.
- Project Team to arrange for Co-chairs to present to councils after elections. Tim, Louise and Kara are presenting to Mayoral Forum on 23 August.

Session 2: Communications and Engagement Subgroup update

Zoe Ogilvie (subgroup lead)

Communications and Engagement subgroup update:

- Zoe is managing the Facebook page. Discussion needed on future management. Committee members encouraged to send through topical content to be posted.
- Tactical plan, brand and logo, PowerPoint presentation for Committee members are ready to use.
- Further work:
 - Marketing plan to drive people to 'Have Your Say' site
 - Targeted emails
 - Social media protocols
 - Social media 101
 - Timeline for emails to organisations
 - Let Emily and Zoe know if there are any clashes with meeting dates for organisations we will be contacting
 - Spreadsheet so we don't duplicate engagement with organisations
- Next C&E subgroup meeting:
 - phasing future engagements for the lifetime of the project and beyond
 - review information being gathered from current engagement and consider how to analyse it
 - Committee members are welcome to join any of the subgroup meetings

- Survey on Have Your Say engaging on a 100 year vision. There is a discussion board and a mapping tool to identify places that are important to people. The marketing campaign will send people to Have Your Say. Also identifying events and opportunities and online options.
- Agreed to add full links in tactical plan.
- ‘Standards for water quality’ in tactical plan will be updated to reflect wider task list.
- Local body election candidate evenings are a good opportunity to introduce water content. Subgroup will draft some back-pocket questions for Committee members.

Draft subgroup Terms of Reference discussion:

- Communications and engagement is about the community voice coming in.
- Terms of Reference need further clarity about what the members of the subgroup are doing. Future meeting agendas will be clearer on what the subgroup is doing.
- In principle, the project team develops content, the subgroup sense checks and ratifies (interim step), then it goes to Committee.
- Peter Gilberd agreed to be on the subgroup.
- Subgroup Terms of Reference agreed to with changes to provide further clarity on the role of subgroup members.

Session 3: Policy Subgroup update

Roger Blakeley and Hikitia Ropata (Subgroup co-leads)

- The subgroup is developing a framework to help the Committee hold to the kawa principles. Also considering how to incorporate and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles. The subgroup will continue to work on this for another couple of meetings before bringing it to the full Committee.
- Subgroup is cognisant that important decisions are for the full Committee.
- Discussion on how to capture issues identified at Committee meetings:
 - Process:
 - after each Committee meeting, the Project Team will draft a list of issues identified
 - the Policy Subgroup will review and edit the list within the week following the meeting
 - the list will be emailed to Committee for review and to send through additions
 - issues list will be ratified at next Committee meeting.
 - Will set up additional topic-based subgroups as required.
- Interest in influencing other processes where applicable e.g., three waters review.
- Draft Terms of Reference
 - Subgroup acts as a filter on policy options to bring to full Committee
 - “Discuss and confirm the key options” – move from administration to responsibilities.
 - Other whaitua committee members are welcome to sit in on meetings.
 - Allow for topic-based groups in Terms of Reference.
 - Part of co-Chairs role is ensure that Committee direction and recommendations are actioned.
 - Updates to the map are needed – Hutt River should be called Te Awa Kairangi, spelling mistakes fixed and need to be able to read stream names.

Session 4: Science Subgroup update

A paper was provided in advance of the meeting with options for what the role of the Science subgroup could be. Key points raised:

- The Science subgroup will be an opportunity for presentations to be tested prior to going to the Committee and for those interested in more of the science detail to get into it.
- Subgroup can develop its own Terms of Reference and bring to Committee to ratify.
- Members of the Subgroup may request additional science work but this may depend on resources and timing.
- Science will not dominate the narrative; it is one part of the knowledge base that informs the Committee's decision making.
- Mātauranga Māori, economics and social science agreed as essential knowledge areas to draw on, but not the role of the science subgroup.
- Mātauranga Māori, for example, can be draw on existing information (e.g., in PNRP, Treaty settlements) and be brought to the table by Committee members. It is already in the kawa, the foundation of this work.
- The Science subgroup will meet before a Committee meeting to look at information for the upcoming meeting. The Policy Subgroup will meet after a Committee meeting looking at the information coming out of the meeting.
- Committee members who want to be on the Science subgroup to email Emily/Kat.

Session 5: Understanding the urban footprint

FRAMING THE DAY – *Tim Sharp, Whaitua Programme Manager, GWRC*

- The next two meetings and field trip will cover the urban challenge.
- Many urban people are concerned about their local streams – not just a focus on Hutt River.
- We will consider the coastal receiving environment as well as the three waters – drinking, wastewater and stormwater. How do we manage these waters and the pressures on them? How might we do things differently?
- The Committee will hear from the other Councils at the next meeting, and get further information on the state and pressures on the network from WWL.
- Urban challenges are common throughout NZ as pipes and networks were built at around the same time and so are failing at the same time.
- Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee looked at this challenge extensively. At the September meeting the Committee will look into how they went about their investigations. Chapter 8 of the Porirua WIP covers urban development and Chapter 9 covers wastewater.
- At the October fieldtrip, the Committee will look at good practice water sensitive urban design (WSUD). The Project Team is setting up a meeting with developers.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW – *Denise Young, Senior Policy Advisor, GWRC (see slides)*

- It takes a long time for Councils to plan and make growth happen. First a spatial plan is developed, then a plan change, then a structure plan, then someone needs to develop the land.
- Wellington has a compact urban area – green belts and geography constrains development.
- Urban areas impact habitat and biodiversity, water quality from impervious surfaces, social impacts – lose connection to water through piping streams, loss of mahinga kai etc.
- The challenge is that we need to do all things – maintain or improve water quality, sustain the mauri of our water bodies, allow for population growth, provide people with a nice place to live, have appropriate infrastructure and have land developers making money.

- Need to strategically plan where development goes. Traditionally we have not focussed on water quality and habitat loss when planning urban growth
- Greenfield, however well done, will always increase contaminants to receiving environments due to additional impervious surfaces and runoff of contaminants from cars, roofs, human activities etc. The impact of greenfield can be lessened through WSUD.
- Decisions version of the NRP includes a policy for WSUD in new developments.
- Developing in existing urban areas can occur without increasing the contaminant load or even decreasing it, e.g, through new infrastructure (pipes etc.).
- Medium density and building up instead of out can get more houses in a smaller footprint and less impervious surface.
- High density development is good practice as generally the infrastructure is already there to support growth and it means we are not reclaiming streams.

Key points from the discussion:

- How/where can the Committee best influence? Can we strongly encourage Councils to include water sensitive urban design in their plan reviews? The Government is proposing to make spatial planning mandatory at a regional level under the new NPS for Urban Development (NPS-UD). Is there good policy in there for water quality? Should the Committee submit on the NPS-UD?
- Need to talk with developers.
- Lack of streamlined planning across the Councils. A lot of the responsibility is on district councils. A regional spatial plan would be helpful to consider across the Councils.
- Concern raised that council rules are not enforced, e.g., % of a property allowed to be impermeable.

NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN (NRP) – *Richard Sheild, Policy Advisor, GWRC* ([see slides](#))

- Five plans brought into one integrated plan.
- Key changes included the integration of mana whenua values and the identification and protection of significant sites.
- The decisions version of the Natural Resources Plan was notified at the end of July.
- The key decisions were outlined.

Key points from the discussion:

- Process for the WIP recommendations to become a chapter in the NRP – the consequent changes to the NRP will go through the RMA Schedule 1 process – publically notified, submissions, hearings, appeals etc. There will potentially be a more centralised water hearings model (curtailed appeal rights) under changes to the NPS-FM.
- The Plan Team at GWRC are working on the variations associated with the Ruamāhanga and Porirua WIPs.
- Concern raised about the time these processes takes.
- The Committee will also influence in other areas such as investment etc. (as well as regulation).
- GWRC did not follow the collaborative planning process under the RMA as it was considered there would be additional risk of legal challenge
- Request for a paper or schematic of the policy context.
- Can the Committee make recommendations directly to city councils? (Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee made recommendations directly.) City councillors on the Committee will give recommendations weight.
- The relaxing of the rules around stream reclamation was a concern raised by most. This was driven out of the need recognised by the panel to provide for housing under the National

Policy Statement for Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC). Appeals on the decision document are open until September.

- Query on where parts of the whitua chapter are inconsistent with the regional rules? The rules in the whitua chapter override the general rules. If the other whitua chapters do not have their own rules on a topic then the regional rules apply.

Session 6: The biophysical effects of our urban activities on rivers and coasts

Mark Heath, Evan Harrison and Claire Conwell, Senior Environmental Scientists, GWRC ([see slides](#))

Key points from the discussion:

- Water quality index was adopted by GWRC in 2005 and doesn't include toxic algae, although it is an indicator in the state of the environment reporting.
- Urban streams work is being funded by GWRC and WCC to get understanding of habitat and organisms.
- Toxic algae in the Hutt River is a big issue. People are saying they can't do what they could before in the river. The Committee will be having a session on toxic algae.
- There are permanent warnings along the Wellington waterfront about not eating and collecting mahinga kai. These are generally in the areas where stormwater outlets are.
- In the inner harbour there are a lot of legacy contaminants like mercury, DDT etc. which impact on the animals living there. In the middle of the harbour the levels aren't too bad.
- Dunes are starting to be replanted to help protect property from coastal erosion. Dunes support niche habitats and provide habitat services that can't be found elsewhere.
- Is it safe for Orca in the harbour? PCBs are strongly associated with the organic component of sediment. The levels in the water are below safe levels. Orca are exposed to these by contamination through their food – the harbour is only one of many possible feeding grounds, therefore contamination is not associated with a single source.

Session 7: The underpinnings – the infrastructure requirement and 3 waters network

Rob Blakemore, Chief Advisor, Wellington Water (WWL) ([see slides](#))

Key points from the discussion:

- Approximately half of the pipe network's contaminant contribution is believed to be due to cross-connections and broken pipes on private land.
- WWL have developed WSUD guidelines and are seeking to implement more WSUD in replacements in the stormwater network.
- Generally stormwater assets are upgraded when there is a health and safety issue.
- WWL has education campaigns about what happens when you put things down the drain, walking your dog, what goes down the toilet, emphasising water conservation in summer and trying to reduce the leaks in the network.
- To reduce high per capita use of water compared to other places WWL suggests cities should look at leaks first. WWL has a future services study looking at future options e.g., reducing pressure to reduce leakage. Water demand per capita has been falling until recently. The more we reduce consumption, the longer we delay building new water supply.
- Land has been set aside for an extra water supply system north of Te Marua lakes.
- Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua Committee made recommendations around private connections.
- Fixing pipes isn't considered 'sexy'. But where there are issues people push for fixes. Politicians get emails from people concerned about water leaks and how long they take to fix.

- WWL priorities are flooding, resilient water supply, receiving water environments in that order.

Session 8: Current approach in urban planning and planning for growth

Kate Pascall, Principle Advisor, Wellington City Council (WCC) ([see slides](#))

Key points from the discussion:

- WCC provides the framework for development through the District Plan but there will need to be a trigger for infrastructure upgrades.
- Contributions for infrastructure upgrades are agreed through the consent process, e.g., development contributions and Council investment.
- WCC is reluctant to put unnecessary barriers in the way of development.
- The modelling of future capacity needs is based on economic tests (realised capacity, feasibility etc.).
- Why are growth figures always assessed at the high end? Good planning is to allow for the 80,000 to ensure we have enough capacity. WCC will continue to monitor and adjust settings as necessary.
- Why wasn't a regional approach used in spatial planning and modelling? This wasn't considered in the planning for growth as it was just WCC work. There is regional thinking happening, although Councils currently have no political mandate to do that.
- Some people are worried about places like the Hutt becoming metropolitan cities.
- WCC have declared a climate emergency; does this align with the stream reclamation provisions in the PNRP which WCC submitted against? The policy remains the same. Consent for reclaiming streams was non-complying in the PNRP but through the hearing was changed to discretionary. The decisions from the hearings panel is still open to appeals.

Session 9: Co-chairs wrap up

Louise Askin and Kara Dentice, Co-chairs

Thanks to all the presenters. The Committee looks forward to hearing more from these organisations in future meetings.

The focus of the next 2 sessions is still urban development. It was helpful to receive information in advance.

Gabriel closed the meeting with a karakia.

Next meeting: Monday 23 September 2019 at the Lowry Bay Yacht Club.