



MINUTES

**Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 6 September 2023

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIĀRI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE GROUND FLOOR MEETING ROOM 1 & 1B, 306 CAMERON ROAD,
TAURANGA ON WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Ms Darlene Dinsdale (Chairperson), Commissioner Bill Wasley, Mayor James Denyer, Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour (Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC)), Mr Jo'el Komene, Mr Maru Tapsell, Mr Mokoera Te Amo

IN ATTENDANCE: Nic Johansson (General Manager: Infrastructure), Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Kelvin Hill (Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes), Sam Hema (Tangata Whenua Liaison), Rodney Clark (Water Treatment Manager), Carlo Ellis (Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement), Yolande Gallagher (Kaiārahi Māori), Coral Hair (Manager: Democracy & Governance Services), Sarah Drummond (Governance Advisor),

EXTERNAL: Rueben Fraser (Consents Manager, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Rachael Davie, (General Manager Strategy and Community, WBOPDC), Cedric Crow (General Manager Infrastructure Group, WBOPDC), E J Wentzell (WBOPDC), Luke Whare and Watana Williams.

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Mr Mokoera Te Amo opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA3/23/1

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Mr Jo'el Komene

That apologies from Commissioner Shadrach Rolleston and for lateness from Nic Johansson be received and accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN

Nil

6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It was requested that staff check the 7th bullet point on page 15 of the agenda, under Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group Update May 2023,” which described the impact on the flow capacity of the Waiāri due to the Auckland Anniversary weather event. Following the meeting staff provided a correct description.

7.1 Minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 7 June 2023

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA3/23/2

Moved: Mr Jo'el Komene

Seconded: Deputy Mayor John Scrimgeour

That, subject to the following correction to the 7th bullet point of the update report, minutes of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 7 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

“The weather event during Auckland Anniversary weekend in January 2023 caused a 100 times the average stream flow with a flood flow of approximately 428,000 litres per second.”

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

9.1 Waiāri Operations Report

Staff Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

Key points

- The ecological monitoring survey was carried out to increase knowledge of the baseline. This survey coincided with the abstraction of water from the stream for water supply and the Auckland Anniversary flooding.
- The survey enabled a better understanding of the stream characteristics when flooding does occur.

In response to questions

- No questions were asked.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA3/23/3

Moved: Mayor James Denyer

Seconded: Commissioner Bill Wasley

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiāri Operations Report".
- (b) No feedback was provided on the report.

CARRIED

9.2 Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update September 2023

Staff Kelvin Hill, Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes
Sam Hema, Tangata Whenua Liaison

- Two meetings of the sub-group have taken place since the last Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG) meeting and the minutes of these meetings were attached to the report.

Mauri Model application

Key points

- Dr Kepa Morgan would be holding another workshop before Christmas.
- A hui would be held on 21 September 2023 to gather further input from Waitaha.

In response to questions

- The impact on Cyclone Gabrielle on the mauri of the Waiāri was a question for tangata whenua to respond to and was not necessarily one that could be answered from a scientific perspective.
- It was requested that the state of the mauri of Waiāri be considered at each Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting, and this was included as an additional resolution (c).

Rest area restoration (Waiāri Bridge), Tohu Māori – Storytelling Cultural Interpretation Options and River Access Points

Key points

- These three initiatives were considered interrelated.
- The Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) had positioned themselves to support and lead these initiatives and Elva Conroy had been contracted to support these three initiatives.
- Elva Conroy and Sam Hema were developing a programme of work to ensure consistency between WBOPDC and Tauranga City Council (TCC).
- Part of the programme was to develop a set of criteria against which each of the six access sites to the river could be assessed. Each of these sites had complexity and special significance.
- Discussion in the upcoming hui would centre on which information was to be public and which information iwi retained. Collectively tangata whenua were happy to tell stories, and WBOPDC were working on how to tell those stories in a number of mediums, including audio/visual platforms.
- The inclusion of the rest area at the Waiāri Bridge was a project that would be subject to the Long Term Plan (LTP) process at WBOPDC.

In response to questions

- The idea to attach a measuring device to the bridge pylon was in response to the issues around correct river flow data and a visual measuring device on the pylon would be a practical solution.
- Staff would report back on the comment in paragraph 27(a) Te Rerenga site that “Tapuika have exclusive access”.
- The six river access sites would likely feed into the catchment management plan, but this was not able to be confirmed by staff.
- The comments in paragraph 27(f) related to access along the bottom end of the Kaituna was described as challenging because of the physical environment and tidal nature and currently only row boats could be used.

Discussion point

- It was requested that WBOPDC ensured that the operations team tasked with the mahi be strongly encouraged to make progress on these matters as historically there had been slow movement in this space.
- In response to this point, WBOPDC advised that there was an internal process to ensure the Māori strategic staff and the operations staff were communicating and working together and these projects would be considered by elected members through the Long term Plan (LTP) process.
- Suggested looking at additional access points along the river at Ngaingainui and Mangakino with access points already along the river and at Te Kongutuawa, as we were missing the source, the tupuna.

Regeneration Programmes**Key points**

- The key to these programmes was having skilled people teaching about rongoa, riparian planting and cultural values. These programmes would involve and employ tangata whenua and revive cultural practices.
- Grateful to Tapuika Iwi Authority who offered to co-ordinate the regeneration work through their youth initiative.
- Maps would be provided to show the impacts of the regeneration programmes in future reports.

In response to questions

- Any further regeneration initiatives could be developed and included in the programme.
- Local DOC initiatives support iwi currently through Jobs for Nature that focussed on restorative approaches.

Discussion point

- It was requested that Waitaha representatives discuss with rōpu a Jobs for Nature initiative for the Raparapaahoe Stream to develop a restorative programme.
- This initiative could be part of a broader policy that looked at all streams that feed into Waiāri and Kaituna rivers.

Education and employment pathways**Key points**

- Staff were exploring several opportunities for education and employment pathways and would have more detail at the next WKAG meeting.

Waiāri Stages 2 and 3

Refer to plan on power point presentation.

Key points

- This information was requested as reports referred to Waiāri Stages 2 and 3.
- The name “Waiāri Stages 2 and 3” was incorrect as these stages involved bulk water mains within the urban centres of Pāpāmoa and Mount Maunganui. While these mains would convey water from the Waiāri, they were not related to any works involving the Waiāri water treatment plant.
- These projects were about future proofing the water supply for urban growth, reducing leaks and developing sustainable water practices.
- This was a conceptual plan that showed options for conveying water based on current reservoirs, but nothing was fixed. Eventually projects would be included in the LTP to address urban growth.

In response to questions

- In terms of long-term planning, the growth figure used was 35,000 households, which would use the full capacity of 45 million litres allocated to TCC from the Waiāri.

Discussion point

- Concern was expressed that the population would grow faster than the water supply and TCC would need to look for additional water sources.
- It was agreed there was a need for long term strategies and planning around water that provided for growth and included sustainable practices to reduce water demand.
- One of the advantages of the Three Waters reforms was that it enabled collaboration to occur between councils on long term planning for water demand.
- There was potential for the secondary use of water from wastewater treatment to use for fertiliser. This would require engineering solutions to achieve.

Cultural Recognition Development Recommendations**Discussion point**

- Supported co-funding approach by the three councils.
- Acknowledged the work that had been undertaken in developing the six initiatives and appreciated that there were currently gaps in the scope and costings.
- LTP process would see each council work through budget allocations for each council. TCC was developing their LTP earlier and needed to have costings available as early as possible.
- Staff would have more idea of costings and scope and complexity of each of the six initiatives by the next WKAG meeting on 8 November 2023.
- It would be helpful when considering prioritisation to have information around the constraints of each initiative in terms of capacity (people), financial and landowner consents.
- It was recognised that these were long term and ongoing commitments and some of the initiatives would require continuous funding.
- A challenge was made to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) to consider increasing their contribution to these projects from the revenues generated from their shares in the Tauranga Port.

Nic Johansson joined the meeting at 10:32 am

- There was potential for a relationship to be developed with the pataka kai programme, a regenerative programme for awa that flowed into Kaituna, and its tributaries given that Elva Conroy was the lead in this programme.
- Mr Te Amo questioned if there was potential to mend bridges again and bless the Waiāri water treatment plant in the correct manner. TCC staff advised that they would welcome this opportunity to open the plant and mend those bridges. It was requested that this be included as an action from the minutes.

Water provided for marae

- Ms Dinsdale requested a discussion on a further cultural initiative relating to the percentage of the water take for marae. This was an issue about natural justice for Māori and would provide an important benefit for hapū and iwi. She noted that this was not recorded in the cultural initiative report and needed to be included. The matter had been outstanding for over two years.
- Ms Dinsdale stated she would include all marae in WBOP District and in Tauranga City.
- WBOPDC advised that marae were not charged for the consumption of water (volumetric charge) but were still charged for the infrastructure and services capital component of the water service. A decision to remit the capital component of the water charge for marae was a political decision as it would set precedent and policy.
- It was noted that the water in the Western Bay of Plenty district supplied to marae was not coming from Waiāri but from groundwater sources.

- This item was initially part of the cultural recognition process but was excluded from the other six initiatives as it was seen as having a different feel, being a political matter.
- The process to get this matter before WBOPDC and TCC councils would require a report from senior staff. WBOPDC advised that they saw three phases of work
 1. evidence gathering.
 2. workshopping with tangata whenua and elected members a draft policy on providing water to marae.
 3. determining the water sources for marae and any impact on the WBOPDC use of its 25% water allocation from the Waiāri.
- BOPRC advised that there was no need to change the consent conditions if an agreement was entered into around water allocation to marae, but that it could be recorded that there was an agreement in place.

The great mahi and open heartedness of Kelvin and Sam was acknowledged.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA3/23/4

Moved: Commissioner Bill Wasley

Seconded: Mayor James Denyer

That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group - Cultural Recognition Development Update September 2023".
- (b) That the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (KWAG) members having discussed all (6) Cultural initiatives and;
 - (i) Consider the priority of each associated timing of work across all 6 initiatives at the 8 November 2023 Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting.
 - (ii) Support the development of a collaborative funding model that requires each of the parties, Tauranga City Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council to seek funding via their individual Long Term Planning process.
- (c) Requests a report on the state of the mauri of Waiāri be provided to each Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting.
- (d) Notes that Te Kapu o Waitaha provide a report on the impacts of the Raparapaahoe for the jobs for nature programme.

CARRIED

Attachments

1 Waiari stg2 3 update sept 2023

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

11 CLOSING KARAKIA

Mr Jo'el Komene closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 11:10 am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 8 November 2023.

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CHAIRPERSON