



AGENDA

Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting Wednesday, 7 October 2026

I hereby give notice that a Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 7 October 2026

Time: 9:30 am

**Location: Tauranga City Council Chambers
L1, 90 Devonport Road
Tauranga**

**Gareth Green
Acting Chief Executive**

Terms of reference – Wastewater Management Review Committee

Membership

Chair	Mr Spencer Webster – Ngā Pōtiki
Deputy chair	Cr Rick Curach – Tauranga City Council
Members	Cr Rick Curach – Tauranga City Council Cr Kevin Schuler – Tauranga City Council Cr Hēmi Rolleston – Tauranga City Council Cr Rod Taylor – Tauranga City Council Ms Lara Burkhardt – Ngā Pōtiki Mr Spencer Webster – Ngā Pōtiki Mr Whitiora McLeod - Ngāi Te Rangi TBC - Ngāti Ranginui TBC – Ngāti Ranginui (<i>alternate member</i>)
Quorum	Four members with at least one member representing Tauranga City Council and one member representing Ngā Pōtiki
Decision-making	By consensus where possible. If consensus cannot be reached, by majority vote. If there is an equal number of votes, the member who is chairing the meeting has a casting vote.
Meeting frequency	A minimum of twice yearly
Meeting venue	To alternate between marae and council venues; or as appropriate to a meeting agreed by the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

The Committee has a membership of eight, four of whom are elected members from Tauranga City Council (TCC) and four who are appointed as representatives of iwi, with one member each from Ngāti Ranginui and Te Runanga o Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi Trust and two members representing Ngā Pōtiki ā Tamapahore Trust Board.

The Wastewater Management Review Committee is established as a committee of Council under the Local Government Act 2002 and conditions imposed on Bay of Plenty Regional Council Coastal Permit # 62878.

Role

- To ensure Wastewater operations are in accordance with the Wastewater Management Review Committee Management Plan.

Scope

- (a) To receive reports on the operation of the Wastewater Scheme, including reports in relation to monitoring and permit compliance, and to make recommendations to the Permit Holder on the development of Tauranga City Council's policies in relation to wastewater management, treatment and disposal, particularly following the review of wastewater treatment in light of

new technologies and standards addressed in the Monitoring, Upgrade and Technology Review Report required by Condition 20 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878.

- (b) To make decisions about the application of the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund established in accordance with Condition 19 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878.
- (c) To make recommendations to the Permit Holder as to physical measures and initiatives to address or compensate for actual or potential effects of the Tauranga City Wastewater Scheme (in the broadest environmental sense).
- (d) Without limiting the generality of function (c) above, to make recommendations to the Permit Holder as to the implementation of the works to be undertaken in accordance with Permit N^o 62881, namely:
 - (i) Decommissioning of the Te Maunga Sludge Pond and the future use of the pond.
 - (ii) Conversion of the Te Maunga Oxidation Ponds to wetlands.
- (e) To make recommendations to the Permit Holder in relation to the independent consultant to be appointed to undertake the Monitoring, Upgrade and Technology Review Report required by Condition 20 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878.
- (f) To make recommendations to the Permit Holder as to enhancing the involvement of tangata whenua in sampling, testing and monitoring.
- (g) Assessment of the scope and adequacy of sampling and monitoring.
- (h) Notification to appropriate parties of activities that may have adverse effects.
- (i) To receive, review and recommend action following receipt of wastewater reports.
- (j) To recommend the commissioning of reports and future Tauranga City Council actions on wastewater management, treatment and disposal issues and options, including:
 - (i) Development of alternatives to waterborne wastewater systems;
 - (ii) Options for further treatments;
 - (iii) Options for methods of disposal;
 - (iv) Monitoring effects on the environment.
- (k) To co-ordinate and oversee education of the community on wastewater management, treatment and disposal issues.
- (l) To identify and make recommendations to the Permit Holder as to sources of funding which may be available to supplement the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund established pursuant to Condition 19 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878 hereof and to be applied for the purposes specified in that condition.
- (m) To make recommendations to the Permit Holder as to changes to conditions of these permits pursuant to section 127 of the Resource Management Act 1991, in light of the exercise of the Review Committee's functions, including reports received and information received as a result of monitoring, etc. or to avoid, remedy or mitigate actual or potential adverse effects associated with the operation of the Wastewater Scheme.
- (n) To foster robust relationships and dialogue between the Review Committee, the Permit Holder, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council in relation to wastewater management, treatment and disposal, particularly following the review of wastewater treatment in light of new technologies.
- (o) To make recommendations to Bay of Plenty Regional Council as to amendments to the conditions of these permits which could be implemented via a review under section 128 of the Act in accordance with Condition 22 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878.
- (p) Prior to making any:
 - (i) Decisions as to the allocation of the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund in accordance with Condition 18.3(b) of Coastal Permit N^o 62878 hereof or,
 - (ii) Recommendations to the Permit Holder in relation to physical environmental mitigation or enhancement or mitigation works in accordance with Condition 18.3(c) of Coastal Permit N^o 62878 hereof; -

the Review Committee will exercise its best endeavours to ascertain the existence of any persons or bodies who may have a particular interest or stake in the ecological health of the Tauranga Harbour (particularly the Upper Harbour/Rangataua Bay area) and to consult with those bodies or persons as to appropriate initiatives and measures to be so recommended (in accordance with Condition 18.3(b) of Coastal Permit N^o 62878) or undertaken (in accordance with Condition 18.3(c) of Coastal Permit N^o 62878). As a minimum, the Review Committee shall consult with:

- Nga Potiki Kaitiaki Resource Management Unit hapu and iwi of Te Runanga o Ngaiterangi Iwi Trust, Ngati Ranginui and Ngati Pukenga and Te Arawa and their respective hapu which hold kaitiaki status over the wider Tauranga Moana district, including any Working Group established by those hapu or iwi;
 - Bay of Plenty Regional Council and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council in relation to issues which may affect those councils in accordance with their function under Condition 18.3(m) of Coastal Permit N^o 62878 hereof.
- (q) Not later than one month following the first anniversary of the commencement of these permits and on each anniversary thereafter, the Wastewater Management Review Committee shall forward to the General Manager, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, a report on the exercise of its activities and functions, including where appropriate a report on the effectiveness of measures undertaken pursuant to the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund.
- (r) Not less than six months following the first anniversary of this permit and each fifth anniversary thereafter, the Wastewater Management Review Committee's annual report shall contain a review of its activities over the previous five-year period and recommendations for appropriate initiatives over the next five-year period, including any recommendations for changes to conditions of these permits which may be considered necessary or desirable. This report shall be available at least three months prior to the date on which Bay of Plenty Regional Council is entitled to review the conditions of these permits in accordance with Condition 22 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878 hereof.
- (a) A copy of this report shall also be provided to the Chief Executive, Tauranga City Council.
- (s) As set out in Condition 18.1.3 of Coastal Permit N^o 62878, the Wastewater Management Review Committee Management Plan may be amended with the written approval of the Chief Executive of Bay of Plenty Regional Council or delegate.
- (t) Confirmation of Committee minutes.

Reporting

The Wastewater Management Review Committee reports to Council and the Chief Executive of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Chair and Deputy Chair acting as Co-Chairs

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Wastewater Management Review Committee (WWMRC) have a governance role to ensure that the WWMRC meets regularly and undertakes its role to monitor and provide advice to Tauranga City Council as the consent holder of Bay of Plenty Regional Council Coastal Permit # 62878 and ensure wastewater operations are in accordance with the Wastewater Management Plan.

- The Chair will be appointed by the Tauranga City Council following a recommendation of the Wastewater Management Review Committee.
- The Deputy Chair will be appointed by the Wastewater Management Review Committee.
- While these roles are separately appointed it is the intention that they act as co-chairs.
 - Only one person can chair a meeting at any one time. The person chairing the meeting has the powers of the chair as set out in standing orders and has the option to use the casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

- The rotation of the meeting chairs is at the discretion of the Chair and Deputy Chair and subject to their availability, however it is expected that they will alternate chairing meetings when possible.
- When the Deputy Chair is chairing the meeting, the Chair will vacate the chair and enable the Deputy Chair to chair the meeting. The Chair will be able stay and participate in the meeting unless they declare a conflict of interest in an item, in which case they will not participate or vote on that item.
- The Chair and Deputy Chair will attend pre-agenda briefings and split any other duties outside of meetings, e.g. spokesperson for WWMRC.
- The Chair and Deputy Chair will jointly oversee and co-ordinate all activities of the WWMRC within their specific terms of reference and delegated authority, providing guidance and direction to all members and liaising with Council staff in setting the content and priorities of meeting agendas.
- The Chair and Deputy Chair will be accountable for ensuring that any recommendations from the WWMRC are considered by the Tauranga City Council.

Refer to the position description for the Chair and Deputy Chair for more details.

Order of Business

1	Opening karakia	9
2	Apologies	9
3	Public forum.....	9
4	Acceptance of late items	9
5	Confidential business to be transferred into the open.....	9
6	Change to order of business.....	9
7	Confirmation of minutes.....	10
7.1	Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 June 2026	10
8	Declaration of conflicts of interest	17
9	Deputations, presentations, petitions	18
9.1	Introduction to Committee - Kevin Lavery.....	18
10	Business.....	19
10.1	Wastewater Activity Report	19
10.2	Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR) - Joint Recommendations Update	21
11	Discussion of late items	28
12	Closing karakia	28

- 1 OPENING KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES**
- 3 PUBLIC FORUM**
- 4 ACCEPTANCE OF LATE ITEMS**
- 5 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE OPEN**
- 6 CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 June 2026

File Number: A21211430

Author: Anahera Dinsdale, Governance Advisor

Authoriser: Sarah Holmes, Team Leader: Governance & CCO Support Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 June 2026**



DRAFT MINUTES

**Wastewater Management Review
Committee meeting
Wednesday, 17 June 2026**

Order of Business

1	Opening karakia	3
2	Apologies	3
3	Public forum	3
4	Acceptance of late items	3
5	Confidential business to be transferred into the open	3
6	Change to order of business	3
7	Confirmation of minutes	4
7.1	Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026	4
8	Declaration of conflicts of interest	4
9	Business	4
9.1	Water Services Organisation (Verbal Update).....	4
9.2	Wastewater Activity Report	4
10	Discussion of late items	5
11	Closing karakia	5

**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, L1, 90 DEVONPORT ROAD,
TAURANGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2026 AT 3:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr Spencer Webster (Chair), Ms Lara Burkhardt, Mr Des Heke, Mr Whitiora McLeod, Cr Kevin Schuler, Cr Rod Taylor, Cr Hēmi Rolleston (online)

IN ATTENDANCE: Reneke van Soest (General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Radleigh Cairns (Manager: Drainage Services), Jim Summers (Environmental Programme Leader), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor).

Timestamps are included at the start of each item and signal where the agenda item can be found in the recording of the meeting held on 17 June 2026 on [Council's YouTube Channel](#).

1 OPENING KARAKIA

A karakia was given at the Waste Water Management Review committee workshop earlier in the day.

2 APOLOGIES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW/26/0/1

Moved: Mr Spencer Webster

Seconded: Cr Rod Taylor

That apologies from Cr Rick Curach 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

Timestamp: 4 minutes

7.1 Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW/26/0/2

Moved: Mr Spencer Webster

Seconded: Mr Whitiora McLeod

That the Minutes of the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

Timestamp: 4 minutes and 55 seconds

9.1 Water Services Organisation (Verbal Update)

Staff Reneke van Soest

- Councils had agreed to establish a Water Services Organisation (WSO) that will assume ownership of three waters assets and consents (stormwater, drinking water, wastewater).
- Wastewater consents (and this committee) were expected to transfer to the WSO, although the future structure and membership of the committee remained unclear.
- A transition team was overseeing establishment; currently the organisation was in an early phase (Chief Executive appointed, further roles such as Chief Financial Officer and a Tangata Whenua advisor being recruited).
- Consent conditions would transfer unchanged to the WSO; no changes to requirements were anticipated unless formally varied.
- Members emphasised the need to manage the transition carefully to retain progress made by the committee, including potential knowledge transfer/mentoring between existing and future members.
- It was noted that Tangata Whenua representation was driven by consent conditions tied to rohe, and was expected to continue under the new entity.
- There may be a need to include key elements (e.g. arrangements or expectations) in transfer or foundation documents to preserve current practices and intent.
- The key implication was that the committee would likely transition into the WSO environment, but governance arrangements (membership, roles, and supporting mechanisms) were still to be defined through the transition process.

Action Requested:

- That staff engage with the General Manager, Strategy, Partnerships & Growth to ensure this transition is actively managed to support engagement and transition considerations, and to look at the possibility of coaching and/or supporting incoming members.

Timestamp: 10 minutes and 40 seconds

9.2 Wastewater Activity Report

Staff Jim Summers, Environmental Programme Leader
Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

The Environmental Programme Leader and the Manager: Drainage Services spoke to a PowerPoint presentation (attached) and provided the following points:

- All wastewater discharges and seepages were reported as within consent conditions, with no significant issues raised.
- Regional Council feedback (Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review report (MUTR)) supported a Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan and inclusion of emerging contaminants monitoring, with a recommendation for a site management plan for the treatment plant.
- Overflows: 38 blockages were recorded since the last meeting; most contained within the network (33), with 5 reaching the receiving environment. Standard notification and water quality monitoring processes were followed.
- Capital projects (Tauranga plant): Clarifier 3: construction and preliminary commissioning complete; final commissioning pending completion of Bioreactor 2. Bioreactor 2: progressing well; expected completion late 2026 and operational early 2027.
- Network and infrastructure works: Opal Drive pump station nearing completion (commissioning underway).
- Waiāri pump station consent granted; construction expected to commence shortly.
- Ongoing renewals (e.g. Mansels Road, Ferguson Park) completed or in service.
- Future planning / strategy: Work progressing on biosolids management, including stabilisation and options such as anaerobic digestion.
- Acknowledged cost risk for vermicomposting if supply inputs decline, emphasizing need for multiple disposal options.
- Environmental Mitigation Fund (EMF): Committee confirmed it can review policy and guidelines but does not hold full decision-making delegation. Working group to be established to explore more flexible use of the fund.
- Overall theme: Operations were compliant and stable, with steady progress on capital works, while attention was shifting to long-term monitoring, biosolids strategy, and funding/flexibility of the EMF.

In response to questions

- Opal Drive contaminated soil: officers indicated the removed soil had likely been replaced. This would be followed up.
- Biosolids / vermicomposting risk: the risk was not loss of the option, but increasing costs over time as supply inputs (e.g. woodchip/mill by-products) reduced. Emphasis on ensuring multiple disposal options to improve resilience.
- MUTR recommendations: officers confirmed work would identify how each recommendation would be implemented (or not), acknowledging some may be impractical or too costly.
- Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan approach: clarified that the current draft is not final; further work is required to finalise the plan and develop an implementation approach and indicative costs. Funding constraints were noted — the committee could not commit operational funding, and external funding mechanisms (e.g. EMF) may assist with development only.

Discussion

- Refinement of MUTR recommendations: agreement that staff should report back on how each recommendation will be implemented or not, rather than assuming full adoption.
- Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan – next steps: extensive discussion on whether to progress the draft

plan, scope it further, or finalise it. Consensus was to direct staff and tangata whenua representatives to collaborate to finalise the plan and develop an implementation approach with costs.

- Funding constraints and approach: it was noted the Committee could not commit unbudgeted or ongoing operational expenditure. EMF funding considered for development work only (not ongoing monitoring), with uncertainty about appropriate use requiring further work.
- Working group / follow-up: A working group (including EMF focus) to meet to clarify funding options and policy settings.

Actions Requested:

That staff:

- Prepare a plan and costings for completing:
 - The Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan
 - The implementation of the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan
- Report back on the total cost and timeline as soon as practicable, with potential funding options.
- Note that if (l) above is within budget, this can proceed immediately and does not need to wait for a future Waste Water Management Review Committee meeting for approval.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WW/26/0/3

Moved: Mr Spencer Webster

Seconded: Cr Rod Taylor

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Wastewater Activity Report".
- (b) Directs staff to provide the Committee with detailed joint recommendations from staff and Tangata Whenua on the implementation, or not, of all Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review report recommendations, apart from the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan, for the Waste Water Management Review Committee to accept implementation steps, to be brought back to the committee at the next meeting.
- (c) Directs staff to provide the Committee with a preferred consenting pathway for the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan to be brought back to the next meeting.

CARRIED

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Nil

11 CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Hēmi Rolleston closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Wastewater Management Review Committee meeting held on 7 October 2026.

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

9 DEPUTATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, PETITIONS

9.1 Introduction to Committee - Kevin Lavery

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10 BUSINESS

10.1 Wastewater Activity Report

File Number: A21165875

Author: Jim Summers, Environmental Programme Leader

Authoriser: Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Wastewater Management Review Committee (WWMRC) with information on the status of the wastewater networks and associated projects, and to highlight any significant opportunities, risks, key issues, and material changes since the last report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Wastewater Activity Report".
-

DISCUSSION

Wastewater Resource Consents

2. Monitoring results for Tauranga City Council's (TCC) wastewater consents are all within consent requirements. This includes discharges from the outfall at Te Maunga.

Wastewater Overflows

3. Since the previous committee meeting, 49 blockages have been notified to Council. Of these, 46 were contained and did not discharge to the receiving environment. 3 blockages potentially reached the receiving environment and were notified to BoPRC, Toi Te Ora, and relevant local hapū/iwi RMA representatives.

Te Maunga Upgrade Programme

4. **Clarifier 3** – Final tie-ins for Clarifier 3 have been completed and final
5. **Bioreactor 2** – Hydrostatic tests have been successfully completed and commissioning to begin in mid- October.
6. **Renewal of Bioreactor 1** – This work involves the removal of accumulated sludge, replacement of the diffusers and diffuser grids, and renewal of other structural and mechanical components. Planning for the activity is currently underway, with the contractor preparing pricing. The works are expected to commence in February/March 2027, following completion of the Bioreactor 2 performance period.
7. **New Inlet Works Enabling Works** – These works will improve access to facilitate the upcoming Bioreactor 1 renewal and new inlet works. All approvals have been obtained to proceed, and pricing is currently being negotiated with the contractor. The programme is being developed, with works expected to commence in the coming months and be completed by February 2027.
8. **Te Maunga Second Hopper Feed** – Installation of a pumped feed system from the screw presses to the hopper to provide increased resilience and redundancy to the existing conveyance system. Pipework installation is nearing completion, with commissioning planned for October 2026.

Pump Station Upgrades

9. Opal Drive Pump Station is complete and commissioned. Demolition of the old pump station is complete, and the area has been landscaped and seeded
10. Wairakei Pump Station Construction is underway. Site establishment has been completed including the laydown, carpark, driveway and traffic management. Initial rerouting of some of the existing services has been completed.

Wastewater Network - Operation

11. Since the last meeting, the Wastewater Renewals team has continued to deliver significant wastewater pipe relining works across the city, with Newton Street and Beach Road currently the focus. Mansel's Reserve and Kingswood Road have been completed.
12. Papamoa Domain and Bethlehem Wastewater Pump Station renewals are both under contract. Nikau Crescent WWPS is currently being developed in parallel with the new rising main project.
13. Manhole rehabilitation works are underway, with a contractor engaged to line a number of the poorest-condition manholes impacted by high H₂S concentrations and associated corrosion.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

10.2 Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR) - Joint Recommendations Update

File Number: A21206117

Author: Jim Summers, Environmental Programme Leader

Authoriser: Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide the Wastewater Management Review Committee (WWMRC) with an update on progress against the joint recommendations arising from the Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR), and to highlight any significant opportunities, risks, key issues, and material changes since the last committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) Receives the report "Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR) - Joint Recommendations Update".
- (b) Endorses the scope for progressing the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan (KMP).
- (c) Approves the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (EMEF) as the funding mechanism for the scope of the KMP.

DISCUSSION

2. Following the June 2026 committee meeting, staff were directed through Resolution **WW/26/03** to develop detailed joint recommendations from staff and Tangata Whenua on the implementation, or not, of all recommendations arising from the Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR) report apart from the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan. These recommendations were to include proposed implementation steps and be reported back to the Committee.
3. Council staff have held two workshops with Tangata Whenua representatives to progress the joint recommendations arising from the Monitoring Upgrade and Technological Review (MUTR). These meetings were held on 26 August 2026 and 22 September 2026. Through these workshops, staff and Tangata Whenua worked collaboratively to refine the recommendations and identify areas of agreement.
4. Staff are continuing to work through the recommendations with Tangata Whenua and propose to bring back a final agreed list with implementation steps at the next meeting.
5. Key themes arising from the joint recommendations are as follows:
 - The Wastewater Programme Business Case (PBC) is identified as the primary vehicle for including Tangata Whenua in progressing future options for wastewater management. Staff have been requested to provide further information on how Tangata Whenua will contribute to and participate in the PBC process once it has restarted.
 - The Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan (KMP) is a recurring theme throughout the joint recommendations. It is evident that many of the recommendations are dependent on, or closely linked to, the development and implementation of the KMP enabling cultural impacts from the wastewater system to be monitored and reported on.
 - Alignment of monitoring already undertaken as part of the wastewater consents to the KMP will be required.

- Monitoring and reporting on council's wastewater consents to be shared with Tangata Whenua.
6. The committee also requested that a plan and costings for completing the KMP be prepared which has been undertaken by Mārearea and Lara Burkhardt and is attached to this report.
 7. The plan sets out a proposed collaborative process for completing the KMP and seeks endorsement and resourcing of that process with a further report back once the detailed work programme and costs have been completed.
 8. Funding of up to \$65,000 exc. GST is proposed for the process. As identified in previous committee meetings this could be approved by the committee to be funded via the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Fund or be progressed as an unbudgeted Council expense, subject to the relevant approval processes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan Completion and Implementation Proposal For WWMRC 7 October 2026 - A21214187** [↓](#) 

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE****7 October 2026****REPORT ON COMPLETION OF THE KAITIAKI MONITORING PLAN****Prepared by**

Te Rangimārie Williams, Mārearea Consulting

Lara Burkhardt, Consulting RMU Manager, Ngā Pōtiki ā Tamapahore Trust

Purpose

1. This report has been prepared jointly by Mārearea and Ngā Pōtiki following the Wastewater Management Review Committee's resolutions of 17 June 2026 concerning the Monitoring, Upgrade and Technology Review (**MUTR**), and the subsequent work undertaken with TCC staff in response to those resolutions.
2. Completion of the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan (**KMP**) is a key recommendation of the MUTR and is also necessary to respond to Bay of Plenty Regional Council's expectations for implementation of the MUTR recommendations and future incorporation of the KMP into the discharge consent. BOPRC has supported its joint development by tangata whenua and TCC and has asked to be involved in its review.
3. The work undertaken since June has confirmed that completion of the KMP is also the proposed means of addressing a substantial number of the MUTR recommendations, together with related matters arising from the effectiveness of conditions review. This has increased both the scope and significance of the work required to complete it.¹
4. The purpose of this report is therefore to:
 - (a) update the Committee on the work undertaken to date;
 - (b) explain the relationship between completion of the KMP, the MUTR recommendations and the effectiveness of conditions recommendations;
 - (c) set out a proposed collaborative process for completing the KMP, including the technical and other support likely to be required; and
 - (d) seek the Committee's endorsement and resourcing of that process, with a further report back once the detailed work programme and costs have been completed.

Background

5. Mārearea prepared the Draft KMP as part of tangata whenua input into the Monitoring, Upgrade and Technology Review (**MUTR**). There is presently no established plan for monitoring the cultural effects of Tauranga's wastewater system. The Draft KMP is intended to provide the framework through which baseline and ongoing cultural effects information can be collected, analysed and used to inform future decision-making.

¹ As part of that work, any matters identified as requiring action outside the KMP will be separately identified and reported back.

6. The Draft KMP establishes a kaupapa Māori framework based around Kaitiakitanga, Mana and Whakapapa, with associated whāinga and tohu against which the cultural effects of the wastewater system can be understood and monitored.
7. Importantly, it is a draft. It identifies a number of further steps required before it can be finalised, including:
 - (a) further wānanga with tangata whenua kaitiaki;
 - (b) confirmation of monitoring locations and what should be monitored;
 - (c) development of GIS/data management;
 - (d) alignment with existing monitoring undertaken by TCC, BOPRC and other agencies; and
 - (e) agreement with TCC regarding funding and implementation.

Relationship with the MUTR and effectiveness of conditions review

8. Since the Draft KMP was prepared, Mārearea, Ngā Pōtiki and TCC staff have undertaken detailed work on the recommendations arising from the MUTR, including the review of the effectiveness of the existing wastewater consent conditions.
9. That work has reinforced the need to complete the KMP. A substantial number of matters identified through those reviews are either already incorporated into the Draft KMP or have been identified as matters to be resolved through the KMP completion process.
10. Those matters include, amongst other things:
 - (a) establishing baseline cultural monitoring information against which future change can be assessed;
 - (b) monitoring the cultural and environmental effects of wastewater discharges, including elevated and emergency discharges;
 - (c) aligning existing consent and Council monitoring with monitoring required to understand cultural effects and mauri;
 - (d) monitoring sediment, water quality, macroinvertebrates, air quality and odour;
 - (e) monitoring the health, abundance and availability of mahinga kai and kaimoana;
 - (f) investigating changes identified through existing ecological monitoring, including the disappearance of tuangi-haruru and absence of other large bivalves;
 - (g) identifying appropriate environmental indicators, limits and responses;
 - (h) providing for tangata whenua wellbeing and relationship monitoring; and
 - (i) establishing mechanisms for reporting monitoring results to tangata whenua and the Committee.

Scope of the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan

11. Some preliminary work has already been undertaken to identify the activities and expertise likely to be required to complete and ultimately implement the KMP. That work is useful as an indication of the likely nature and scale of the task, however further work is needed to develop it into a final implementation scope and budget.
12. Before a reliable implementation programme can be prepared, further work is required to determine matters such as:
 - (a) what should be monitored and where;
 - (b) what baseline work is required;
 - (c) appropriate monitoring methodologies and frequencies;

- (d) the relationship between kaitiaki monitoring and monitoring already undertaken by TCC and others;
 - (e) what technical expertise is required;
 - (f) how monitoring information will be stored, accessed and analysed;
 - (g) the role and resourcing of tangata whenua kaitiaki; and
 - (h) the appropriate governance, reporting and review arrangements.
13. Mārearea and Ngā Pōtiki propose a staged process to complete the KMP, with the detailed work programme and associated costs developed through that process and reported back to the Committee.

Proposed completion project

14. It is proposed that a project team be established to complete the KMP.
15. The project would be tangata whenua-led, reflecting that the KMP is a cultural monitoring framework and that its kaupapa, whāinga and tohu are matters for tangata whenua. Its development would occur collaboratively with TCC so that the final KMP is appropriately informed by Council's existing monitoring, information and technical expertise, and is capable of effective implementation.
16. The completion process would be led by Ngā Pōtiki, working with Mārearea and representatives/kaitiaki from the relevant Tauranga Moana tangata whenua, with TCC staff and specialist technical expertise contributing as required. This is expected to include:
17. The core project team would comprise:
- (a) Ngā Pōtiki as project lead, responsible for coordinating the completion process, managing the project budget and commissioning the required inputs;
 - (b) Mārearea, through Te Rangimārie Williams, as principal author of the KMP, including provision of mātauranga Māori input;
 - (c) representatives/kaitiaki from the relevant Tauranga Moana tangata whenua; and
 - (d) relevant TCC wastewater and environmental staff.
18. The project team would commission or draw on specialist expertise as required to complete the KMP. This is expected to include marine ecology/ecology, air quality, GIS/data management and any other specialist input identified through the completion process.

Proposed work programme

19. Subject to refinement by the project team, the work would proceed through the following stages.

Stage 1 – Establish the project

- (a) Confirm the project team, roles, programme, available budget and working arrangements with TCC.

Stage 2 – Consolidate the existing work

- (b) Bring together the Draft KMP, relevant existing monitoring and data, the MUTR recommendations, the effectiveness of conditions recommendations and the outcomes of the recent work between tangata whenua and TCC staff.

- (c) This stage would build on the work already undertaken to reconcile the Draft KMP with the MUTR and effectiveness-of-conditions recommendations, and confirm the technical, cultural and other work required to complete the KMP.

Stage 3 – Kaitiaki and technical work

- (d) Undertake the necessary wānanga and technical work to confirm monitoring locations, parameters, methodologies, frequencies, baseline requirements and appropriate cultural/environmental indicators.
- (e) The preliminary scope already anticipates that this work will require kaitiaki alongside marine/ecological and air-quality expertise, rather than being undertaken solely as a technical exercise.

Stage 4 – Develop the monitoring and reporting framework

- (f) Confirm how information will be collected, stored and analysed; develop the GIS/data framework; determine how existing TCC monitoring will feed into the KMP; and develop appropriate reporting and review arrangements.

Stage 5 – Complete the KMP and implementation proposal

- (g) Prepare the completed KMP together with a proposed implementation programme identifying responsibilities, technical support, monitoring and reporting requirements and the associated ongoing budget.

Resourcing

- 20. Preliminary costing undertaken to date estimated approximately \$51,000 excluding GST for the work identified as necessary to complete the Draft KMP. That estimate provides a useful starting point but will need to be refined as the completion process and associated technical inputs are confirmed.
- 21. We therefore recommend that, rather than adopting the preliminary costing as a fixed specification, the Committee approve a project funding envelope of up to **\$65,000 plus GST** for completion of the KMP. This will allow the work to commence without prematurely fixing the detailed methodology or technical inputs.
- 22. The ongoing costs of implementing the completed KMP — including monitoring equipment, sampling, laboratory analysis and other operational costs — would be identified separately through the completion process and brought back to the Committee with a further funding recommendation once a reliable scope and budget for implementation are available.

Reporting back

- 23. A progress report would be provided to the Committee at its December hui, addressing progress on completion of the KMP, the proposed monitoring and baseline framework, any significant technical or information gaps, how the relevant MUTR and effectiveness of conditions recommendations are being addressed, and the proposed pathway, timetable and indicative costs for implementation.
- 24. If further work is required beyond December, the Committee would then be able to make that decision on the basis of a substantially developed KMP rather than the preliminary assumptions presently available.

Recommendations

25. It is recommended that the Wastewater Management Review Committee:

- (a) **receives** this report;
- (b) **endorses** the completion of the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan as a priority workstream arising from the Monitoring, Upgrade and Technology Review and effectiveness of conditions review;
- (c) **endorses** the proposed tangata whenua-led, collaborative process for completing the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan involving Mārearea, tangata whenua representatives, relevant Tauranga City Council staff and technical specialists as required;
- (d) **approves** funding of up to \$65,000 plus GST to enable the completion project to proceed;
- (e) **notes** that the detailed ongoing implementation programme and annual cost will be developed through the completion process and are not proposed for approval at this stage;
- (f) **requests** that the project team report back to the Committee in December 2026 on progress, including the matters identified at paragraph 23 above; and
- (g) **notes** that completion of the Kaitiaki Monitoring Plan will progress a substantial number of recommendations arising from the MUTR and effectiveness of conditions review, but does not replace separate consideration of recommendations requiring operational action, changes to consent conditions or other Council decisions.

11 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

12 CLOSING KARAKIA