



AGENDA

Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting Wednesday, 2 September 2026

**I hereby give notice that a Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting will
be held on:**

Date: Wednesday, 2 September 2026

Time: 9:30 am

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

**Marty Grenfell
Chief Executive**

Terms of reference - Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group

Membership

Co-chairs	Two members to be appointed as co-chairs. Council nomination; and Cr Darlene Dinsdale - WBOPC, Co-chair representative of iwi/hapū Luke Whare - Te Kapu o Waitaha Alternate: Helen Biel
Tauranga City Council representatives (2)	Cr Hautapu Baker Cr Steve Morris Alternate: Cr Hēmi Rolleston
Western Bay of Plenty District Council representatives (2)	Cr Laura Rae Cr Darlene Dinsdale
Iwi/ hapū representatives (4)	Helen Biel - Tapuika Iwi Authority Travis Moke - Mokopuna o Tia me Hei Manu Pene - Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu (Te Hononga) Luke Whare - Te Kapu o Waitaha
Iwi/hapū representatives (alternates)	Rob Peake - Te Kapu o Waitaha Hanita Dinsdale - Mokopuna o Tia me Hei Liam Tapsell - Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu (Te Hononga) Hakopa Tapiata - Tapuika Iwi Authority
Bay of Plenty Regional Council representative (non-voting)	Consents Manager.
Quorum	Two representatives from the consent holders and two representatives from iwi/hapu, including one of the Co-chairs. However, where a major decision is required, the quorum will be one representative from each entity. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council representative is not counted towards quorum.
Decision-making	By consensus where possible. If consensus cannot be reached, by majority vote. If there is an equal number of votes, the Co-chair who is chairing the meeting has a casting vote.
Meeting frequency	Four times a year or as required by the group. Meetings to alternate between week and weekend days if possible.
Meeting venue	To alternate between marae and council venues; or as appropriate to a meeting agenda and agreed by the Co-chairs.

Advisory staff

Tauranga City Council	Chief Executive General Manager: Infrastructure Director: City Waters Manager: Water Services Manager: Water Infrastructure Outcomes Manager: Strategic Māori Engagement
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Chief Executive Group Manager: Engineering Utilities Manager
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Compliance Officer with responsibility for Resource Consent #65637

Ko te wai te ora o ngā mea katoa

Background

- The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG) was established by consent conditions to provide advice to Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) as the joint consent holders in relation to matters covered under Resource Consent #65637, which authorises the take and use of water from the Waiāri Stream for municipal supply.
- Resource Consent #65637 was granted in 2010; since then there has been significant consolidation of iwi interests in the region.
- Te Kapu o Waitaha (2013) and Tapuika Iwi Authority (2014) have signed historic Treaty Settlements and Te Runanga o Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu (Te Hononga) are still in negotiations.
- Tauranga City Council has active protocol agreements with Waitaha, Tapuika and Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu including addendums that set out items and areas of significance to each entity.
- The treaty settlements, protocols, addendums and any subsequent plans submitted by Waitaha, Tapuika and Ngāti Whakaue ki Maketu shall be considered as background and context to the operations of the WKAG.
- Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority was established by the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2014 for the purpose of restoration, protection and enhancement of the environmental, cultural and spiritual health and wellbeing of the geographical area of the Kaituna River Catchment. It is a permanent joint committee under the Local Government Act 2002 and co-governance partnership between local authorities and iwi that share an interest in the Kaituna River. Recommendations will be made to Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority where required.

Role

- To exercise kaitiakitanga in relation to the Waiāri Stream to restore, protect and enhance the awa.
- To provide advice and recommendations to Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council, as the joint consent holders, in relation to matters covered under Resource Consent #65637 which authorises the taking of water from the Waiāri Stream for municipal supply.

Scope

- Provide advice and recommendations to the consent holders relating to projects, action or research designed to restore, protect or enhance the health and well-being of the Waiāri Stream.
- Consider the monitoring requirements and outcomes under conditions 7.1 and 7.2 of the consent. Discuss the results of other monitoring undertaken by the group, which may include monitoring the adverse effects on environmental, heritage, cultural, economic and recreational aspects.
- Determine the actions to be taken in response to monitoring reports and make recommendations to the consent holders as appropriate.
- Provide advice and make recommendations to the consent holders and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in relation to Part 2 and, in particular, to sections 6(e) and 7(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991, as they relate to this consent.
- Inform the Bay of Plenty Regional Council of the effects of the water take authorised under the consent on the mauri and mauriora of the Waiāri Stream.
- Review and provide feedback to Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council on the Water Conservation Strategy required to be submitted as a condition of the consent.
- Discuss any other relevant matters that may be agreed by the group.
- Work together with the Kaitiaki Group established under Resource Consent RM16-0204-DC.04; which authorises the Western Bay of Plenty District Council to discharge treated wastewater from the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Waiāri Stream.
- Provide advice and recommendations to the consent holders on the future governance model of the Waiāri Stream.
- Provide recommendations to Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority where required.

Reporting

- The Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group will report to its member entities key discussion points, outcomes and actions following each formal meeting of the Advisory Group.

Co-chair selection process

- Co-chairs will be appointed every three years in alignment with the local government election cycle. The appointments will take place as soon as is reasonably practical following local government elections.
- The Co-chair representing the consent holder will be appointed by the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay District Councils.
- The Co-chair representing iwi/hapū will be appointed by the iwi/hapū representatives.

NB: *Resource consent condition 10.2 defines the membership of the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group.*

Resource consent condition 10.7 notes that the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group shall cease if all members of the group agree the group is to be disbanded. In such case Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (as consent holders)¹ shall give written notice of this to the Chief Executive of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Advice notes from Resource Consent #65637 include:

¹ Insertion made for clarity

- (10) *The Kaitiaki Advisory Group may make recommendations to the Regional Council to review conditions of this consent in accordance with condition 11 and s128 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

For the avoidance of doubt, the Advisory Group is informal in nature and is NOT established as a committee, subcommittee or other subordinate decision-making bodies of Council under clause 30(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and does not have any delegated decision-making powers.

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

7.1 Minutes of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 10 June 2026

File Number: A20758905

Author: Anahera Dinsdale, Governance Advisor

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Minutes of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 10 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 10 June 2026



DRAFT MINUTES

**Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group
meeting**

Wednesday, 10 June 2026

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**MINUTES OF TAURANGA CITY COUNCIL
WAIARI KAITIAKI ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
HELD AT THE MOKO MARAE, 1332 TE PUKE HIGHWAY, TE PUKE
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026 AT 9:30 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Luke Whare, Cr Steve Morris, Cr Laura Rae, Mr Manu Pene, Mr Travis Moke, Mr Hakopa Tapiata.

IN ATTENDANCE: **TCC:**
Reneke van Soest (General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure), Wally Potts (Head of City Waters), Jennifer Pearson (Asset Delivery), Peter Bahrs (Manager: Water Services), Keren Paekau (Acting Head of Strategic Engagement, Yolande Tipuna (Kaiārahi Māori), Anahera Dinsdale (Governance Advisor), Caroline Irvin (Governance Advisor),

WBOPDC:
Brad Singh, Chris Nepia, Mokoera Te Amo

Tangata Whenua:
Mrs Ngaire Dinsdale, Mrs Julie Te Amo, Mr Rob Peake, Mr Watana Williams.

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 10 June 2026 at [Tauranga City Council YouTube Channel](#).

1 OPENING KARAKIA

Koro Manu Pene opened the meeting with a karakia.

2 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/1

Moved: Mr Manu Pene
Seconded: Cr Laura Rae

That the apology for absence received from Cr Darlene Dinsdale, Cr Hautapu Baker, Cr Hēmi Rolleston and Ms Helen Biel be 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 Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 11 March 2026

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/2

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Minutes of the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 11 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Timestamp: 5 minutes

7.2 Clarity from 11 March 2026 meeting Item 9.4 - Water Usage for Marae within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe resolution WA/26/0/6 (c)

Staff Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

Key Points

- Staff outlined that the Water Services Organisation would assume ownership of all assets, operations, and finances related to water supply, wastewater, and stormwater, including consents, effective 1 July 2027. Councils would no longer derive income from water or charge for water services after this date.
- The transition period would last approximately 12-15 months, during which a CEO and a transition team were working on the structure, governance, and operational processes for the new organisation, including how existing committees would provide advice and transition into the new structure.
- Noted that governance structures, including the integration of advisory committees and the role of tangata whenua, were still being developed, with the first joint committee meeting

scheduled for 19 June and a board expected by October 2026.

- There was ongoing uncertainty about the exact processes and pathways for committee recommendations and cultural recognition initiatives, but staff were available to help the group navigate both council and Water Services Organisation channels as needed.
- The group debated whether Cultural Recognition seven should apply to all marae, only those in the Waiari catchment, or specifically to marae with a direct connection to Waiari water. Staff emphasised the need for clarity on this point, as it determined the appropriate pathway for recommendations and engagement with councils and the Water Services Organisation.
- The group can recommend free water for marae to their respective councils without needing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and such recommendations could be for a one-year or permanent rebate. However, after July 2027, water-related decisions and costs will fall under the Water Services Organisation, making it potentially more effective to engage directly with the new entity.
- It was clarified that after the transition, councils would no longer receive income from water, and any rebates or free water provisions would need to be reimbursed by councils until the Water Services Organisation takes over. The group discussed the likelihood of success and administrative simplicity of different pathways.
- There was uncertainty about the original objective of the MOU and its fit within the current process, noting that a relationship agreement will eventually be established by the Water Services Organisation as part of its governance and consent responsibilities.
- The group decided to pause any staff work on the MOU until Councillor Dinsdale, who has been a key advocate for the MOU, can be present to provide input and clarification at a future meeting.
- It was agreed that the principle of reciprocity, which underpins the MOU, should be the focus of a subcommittee or working group rather than staff, and that this should be clearly signalled in meeting records.

Actions Requested

- That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group provide clarity on which marae were included in the recommendation, with staff to distribute a draft paper and seek input via email. The resolution will be interpreted as recommending free water for all marae in the Waiari catchment, with staff pausing work on the MOU until further clarification was obtained.
- Draft and distribute the issues and options paper to respective councils recommending free water for all Marae in the Waiari catchment and those within TCC impacted by the original water take, ensuring clarity on which Marae were included.

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 BUSINESS

Timestamp: 53 minutes

9.1 Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings

Staff Reneke van Soest, General Manager: Operations & Infrastructure

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/3

Moved: Cr Steve Morris

Seconded: Mr Manu Pene

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings".

CARRIED

Timestamp: 55 minutes

9.2 Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group Cultural Recognition Update May 2026

Staff Jennifer Pearson, Asset Delivery

Ms Pearson spoke to a PowerPoint Presentation (attached) and noted the following.

Key Points

- Staff noted the site meetings for the placement of cultural art at the water plant entrance, the development of interpretation panels, and the creation of video footage documenting the Waiari Stream's story, with community and consultant involvement.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/4

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Mr Travis Moke

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group Cultural Recognition Update May 2026".

CARRIED

Attachments

- 1 Presentation - 9.2 - Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group hui 10 June 2026

Timestamp: 1 hour and 6 minutes

9.3 Waiari Operational Report 10 June 20206

Staff Peter Bahrs, Manager: Water Services

Key Points

- Updates included ongoing work with SNR Consulting on resource consent monitoring, plans for iwi to take over Waiari monitoring responsibilities, and the positive feedback received for the ecological monitoring training sessions conducted with SLR and local students.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WA/26/0/5

Moved: Cr Laura Rae

Seconded: Cr Steve Morris

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Operational Report 10 June 20206".
- (b) Provides feedback or comment on report, as needed.

CARRIED

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

Timestamp: 1 hour and 10 minutes

10.1 Western Bay of Plenty District Council Verbal Update

Staff Brad Singh, General Manager: Infrastructure

Key Points

- Mr Singh announced that McConnell Dowell was advertising a permanent, full-time cadetship at the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant, with a focus on candidates who demonstrated a strong connection to iwi values and environmental protection.
- A new graduate role within council water services was being developed, with input from iwi partners to shape the job description, and the potential for the role to transition to the Water Services Organisation depending on the progress of the transition.

11 CLOSING KARAKIA

Koro Manu Pene closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting closed at 12:04pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record at the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meeting held on 2 September 2026.

UNCONFIRMED

8 DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

9 BUSINESS

9.1 Waiari Cultural Recognition Programme Update September 2026

File Number: A21000193

Author: Jennifer Pearson, Asset Delivery

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

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide an update on the status of the seven cultural recognition actions since the last Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group (WKAG) meeting of 10 June at Moko Marae.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Cultural Recognition Programme Update September 2026".
- (b) Endorse the Toi Takapu design for the first Waiari Cultural Art Project at the Waiari Water Supply Plant

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The WKAG Ops Group have met twice since the last WKAG hui and have made progress on several cultural recognition initiatives in the last two months.
2. The seven cultural recognition initiatives agreed by the WKAG:

Tohu Māori – Storytelling	In progress
Waiāri Bridge Restoration	In progress
Regeneration Programmes	Planning underway
Education and Employment Pathways	Planning underway
Mauri Model	In progress
Access to Water	In progress
River access points	Lower priority
River access points	Lower priority

BUDGET

Item	Spend to Date	Budget 2026-27	Budget 2027-28	Funder
WKAG Ops Group iwi reps	\$16,207	\$ 16,000	\$16,000	TCC
Tohu Māori storytelling				
Toi Takapūu cultural artwork	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$110,000	TCC

Item	Spend to Date	Budget 2026-27	Budget 2027-28	Funder
Video story of the Waiāri Waiata for Waiāri	\$15,000	\$20,000 \$10,000 TBC		TCC
Water Monitoring Training and Programme	\$19,800	\$38,800	TBC	TCC
Waiāri Bridge Restoration		\$40,000	\$260,000	WBOPDC
Regeneration and Riparian Management Programmes		\$10,000	\$200,000 (TBC)	WBOPDC BOPRC
Mauri Model Implementation Workshops to agree indicators and monitoring capacity		\$2000		TCC
Education and Employment Pathways		TBC		
Access to Waiāri water for Marae		TBC		
River access points		TBC		
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR FORECAST		\$138,000		

UPDATE ON INITIATIVES

Action	Who	When
Tohu Māori Storytelling – Toi Takapū TCC has signed a contract with Toi Takapū, artist collaboration with Tapuika artists Jo'el Komene, Dean Flavell and Noel McAllister to develop the first cultural recognition artwork to be located near the Waiāri Water Treatment Plant. Dean Flavell from Toi Takapū will present the draft design for the artwork at the next WKAG hui in September. Toi Takapū will provide an updated programme and the artwork is expected to be installed later in 2026.		
Tohu Māori Storytelling – Awa Video Storytelling A contract has been granted to I Am Studios to work with the WKAG Ops Group, Tapuika and Waitaha to tell the local stories around the history of the Waiāri and its importance to the area. This will also include separate wānanga with Tapuika and Waitaha and one together to support the capture the intergenerational voices to tell the story of their lived connection to the awa. Waitaha have completed one wānanga to date.		
Short Term Actions:		

Action	Who	When
- Toi Takapū to provide drawings and plan for cultural art and timeline to completion - Tapuika and Waitaha to develop Waiari awa videos with video contractor I Am Studios	Toi Takapū TCC Tapuika Waitaha I Am Studios	Sept 2026 Sept 2026
Medium Term Actions: - Develop full video content for both iwi and community audiences - Delivery of first cultural artwork - Develop a waiata for the Waiāri	WKAG members I Am Studios Toi Takapū WKAG WKAG	September 2026 November 2026 November 2026
Long Term Actions: - Develop opportunities for further cultural recognition at other sites along the awa	Toi Takapū WBOPDC/TCC	November 2026
Budget	Forecast spend 2026/27	Future Plan
Short term Toi Takapū Short term Video development Medium term Toi Takapū	\$50,000 \$20,000	\$90,000
Waiāri Bridge Restoration (led by WBOPDC) WBOPDC are leading a programme of work to develop a pedestrian bridge across the Stream at the Waiāri Bridge and to improve the area.	Who	When
Short Term Actions: - Monitor and control pest plants - Hui at Makahae Marae with BTW	WBOPDC	Ongoing
Medium Term Actions: - Conclude alternative clip-on bridge and approach ramps cost review, for a decision on what can be delivered within budget. Requires tangata whenua support and Council approval - Working to return land parcels from the old highway to tangata whenua - Complete the landscape design for the Waiāri Bridge Area, which will include: - o Location of cultural and historical elements; - o Flood-resilient stream access improvements;	Scott Parker PM WBOPDC WKAG/WBOPDC/ TCC	August 2026 Ongoing

Action	Who	When
○ Safe pedestrian connections; ○ Location of an accessible bridge crossing; ○ Options for recreation and amenities for visitors to enjoy; ○ Future long-term developments: ▪ Potential shared path linkages to Te Puke township, Waitangi, and the Kaituna River; ▪ Options for safe stream access at the rail bridge; and ▪ Potential for car parking near the stream. - Complete the detailed design with consents and approvals obtained		
Long Term Actions: - Preparation of detail design specifications. - Lodgement of building consent application. - Tender administration; and - Commence construction	WBOPDC	May 2026 – June 2027
Budget	Forecast spend 2026/27	Future Plan
- Expenditure to date \$170,000 - Medium term - Long term	WBOPDC	\$260,000 WBOPDC/Te Puke Community Board \$1,072,090 WBOPDC
Regeneration and Riparian Management Programmes WKAG Ops Group members are keen to develop regeneration programmes for the Waiāri Stream to continue to improve the quality of the awa and streambank management.	Who	When
Short Term Actions: - Working with Rebecca Lyons from WBOPDC to identify potential riparian strips and landowners - Develop Environmental Programme Agreements with landowners on the stream - Identify other partners, including BOPRC	Iwi/ /WBOPDC /BOPRC WKAG	June 2026

Action	Who	When
Medium Term Actions: - Implement Environmental Programme Agreements - Monitoring Plan complete and monitoring underway	Iwi//WBOPDC/ Other partners	December 2026
Long Term Actions: -		
Education and Employment Pathways WKAG members have reviewed the existing TCC waters education.	Who	When
Short Term Actions: - Identify education priorities and work with TCC Waters Education Team to identify opportunities to work together - Tapuika and Waitaha working with TCC on water monitoring	TCC WKAG Tapuika/Waitaha/ TCC	June 2026 June 2026
Medium Term Actions: -		
Long Term Actions: -		
Mauri Model and Water Monitoring A Water Monitoring Programme has been developed with TCC, Waitaha and Tapuika and SLR Consultants who currently undertake the water testing for our resource consent conditions. This programme is expected to lead into matauranga Māori indicators and attributes being brought into the monitoring programme.	Waitaha reps TCC SLR	Ongoing
Water Monitoring: - Iwi reps undertake Waiari Stream monitoring training with SLR done with reporting and review to follow in June. - Iwi meet up with John Hickman, TCC - Iwi reps undertake monitoring with WBOPDC monitoring team Mauri Model Short Term Actions: - Work with BOPRC staff on options for building capacity to review the current attribute/indicator list and meet to agree priority attributes/indicators and any changes required to current model - Iwi to develop indicator list	Tapuika/Waitaha/ TCC/SLR Tapuika/Waitaha WBOPDC Iwi/TCC/BOPRC/ WBOPDC Iwi/TCC/BOPRC/	May 2026 June 2026 June 2026 Nov 2026 On hold

Action	Who	When
- Working group report back to WKAG on updated list of attributes/indicators	WBOPDC	
Medium Term Actions: - Undertake resource consent monitoring with SLR Consultants in February 2027 - Updated indicators list agreed by WKAG and monitoring underway	Waitaha/Tapuika TCC/SLR Iwi/TCC/BOPRC/WBOPDC	Feb 2027 Feb 2027
Long Term Actions: - Goal is for iwi to take over resource consent monitoring from 2028	Iwi/TCC	Feb 2028
Budget	Forecast spend 2026/27	Future Plan
Medium Term Actions: - Iwi undertake resource monitoring Feb 2027 with SLR - Workshop for Mauri Model	\$38,000	\$2000
Access to Waiāri Water for Marae	Who	When
Short Term Actions: - A report is being prepared for TCC by staff on the future of services and infrastructure including water supply to marae in Tauranga Moana. - The report will feed into the LTP looking at how Council supports and marae around infrastructure and emergency support.	TCC Planning team	November 2026
Medium Term Actions: - The decisions at the TCC November meeting will determine actions going forward	WBOPDC/TCC	
Long Term Actions:		

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

9.2 Waiari Operational Report 2 September 2026

File Number: A20967182

Author: Peter Bahrs, **Manager:** Water Services

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

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group on Waiāri stream flows and working with iwi partners to implement the ecological monitoring.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Waiari Operational Report 2 September 2026".
 - (b) Provides feedback or comment on report, as needed.
-

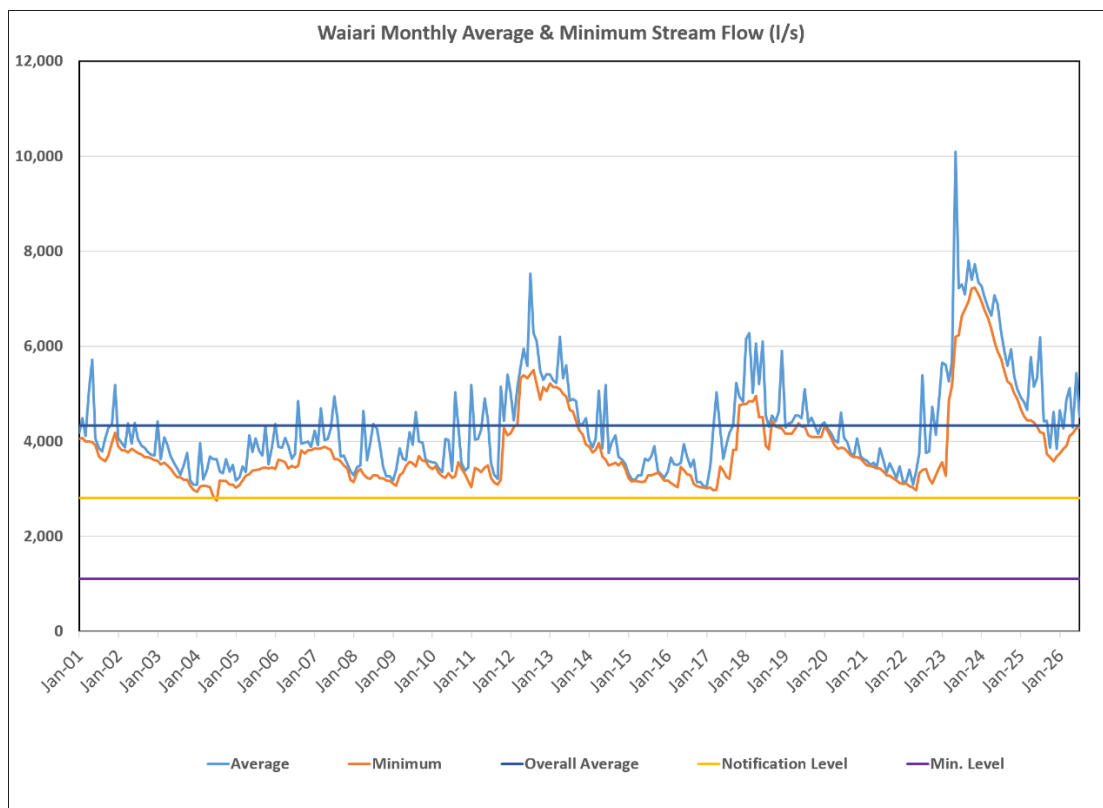
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This report provides an update on Waiāri Stream flow conditions, abstraction levels and ecological monitoring training progress.
3. Average monthly flows from April to July 2026 were generally above or close to the long-term average, with July 2026 residual flows averaging 4,405 litres per second. Current abstraction remains low relative to consented capacity, with an average abstraction of 115 litres per second in July 2026 and 100 litres per second across the May to July quarter.
4. The ecological monitoring training has progressed as planned. Field-based training with Te Kapu o Waitaha iwi partners was completed from 5 to 7 May 2026, supported by SLR Consultants, and covered the consent monitoring methods for water quality, macroinvertebrates, macrophytes and fish surveys.
5. The May 2026 monitoring results were generally consistent with previous surveys and provide no indication that abstraction is having an adverse effect on stream health. No immediate governance decisions are required, beyond noting current performance, maintaining oversight of flow trends.

WAIĀRI STREAM FLOW DATA

6. The Waiāri stream flow for monthly average and minimum flows from January 2001 to end July 2026 and is shown in the first graph below. The maximum flows have been omitted to allow better definition of the data.

Figure 1 Graph of monthly average and minimum Waiāri Flows

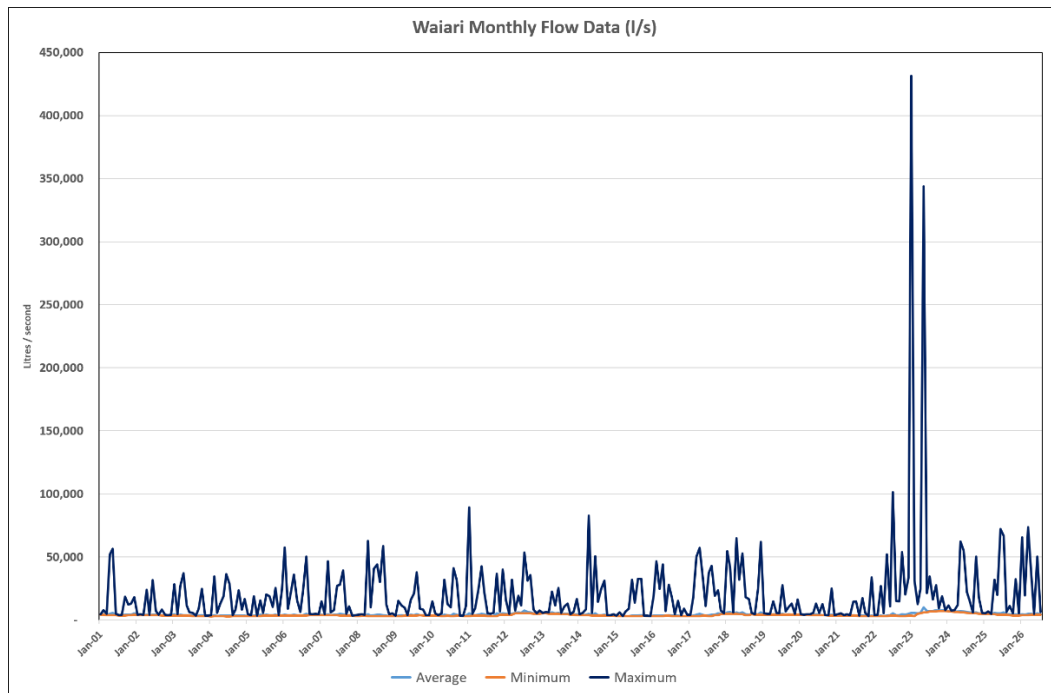


The graph shows that overall, the Waiāri flows have trended up and shown an overall increase above the longer-term average flow (4,336 l/s). The average flows are changing in response to rain events – see table 1 below.

Table 1 Average Monthly Waiāri Flows & Rainfall

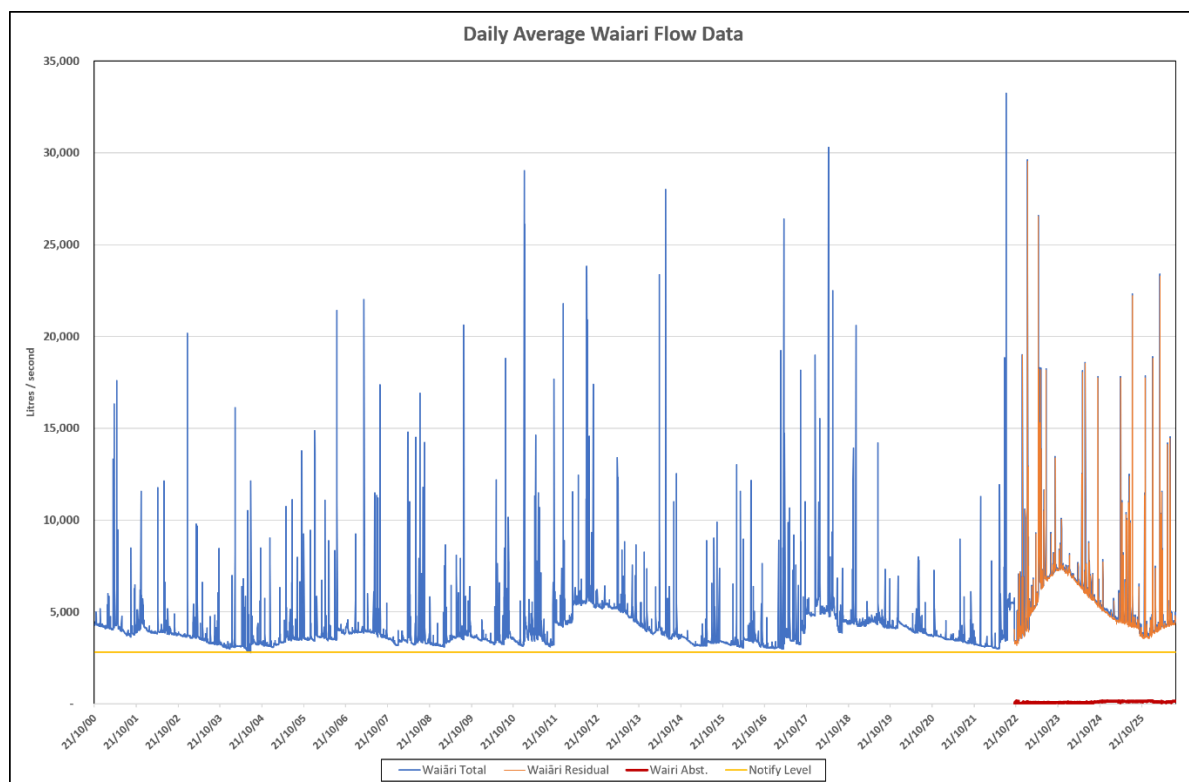
Month	Average Flow (l/s)	Rainfall (mm)
Apr-26	5,118	24
May-26	4,290	160
Jun-26	5,432	58
Jul-26	4,521	138

Figure 2 Graph of monthly maximum, average and minimum Waiāri Flows.



Since the last report monthly peak flows were recorded on the 2 & 24 June with flows of 44,300 and 50,200 litres per second respectively. These flows remain low compared to the high flow events experienced in 2023.

Figure 3 Graph of average daily flows for the Waiāri January 2001 to end July 2026.



7. The graph shows total daily average flow for the Waiāri from October 2000 to end July 2026 and includes the amounts abstracted and the stream residual flow.
8. The average residual flow for July 2026 was about 4,405 litres per second (l/s). This has dropped compared to July 2025 where flows were on average about 6,008 l/s.

9. The average abstraction for July 2026 was 115 l/s with a maximum of 150 l/s. The average abstraction for the quarter May 2026 to July 2026 was 100 l/s with a maximum of 150 l/s. The consent allows for a maximum take of 690 l/s.

WAIĀRI STREAM ECOLOGICAL MONITORING TRAINING

10. Since the last WKAG meeting the field-based ecological monitoring training was completed with Te Kapu o Waitaha iwi partners from 5 to 7 May 2026. The training covered the consent monitoring methodology, including water quality assessment, macroinvertebrate sampling, macrophyte assessment and fish survey methods.
11. SLR Consultants used the May 2026 monitoring outputs to work through the results with iwi partners and explain how the ecological data is processed, interpreted and reported.
12. The report noted that the results from the 2026 survey are generally consistent with previous surveys. The 2026 results provide no indication that abstraction is having an adverse effect on stream health. See attached report.
13. A lessons learned session will be held with iwi partners and SLR Consultants to review the ecological monitoring and training programme and confirm the next steps for future delivery and involvement in the February 2027 monitoring survey. This survey is a scheduled 5 yearly survey, required to meet the requirements of the Waiāri water take resource consent.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Waiari Ecological Monitoring May 2026 Summary Report 20260724 - A20966178** [↓](#) 



Waiāri Ecological Monitoring

2026 Summary Report

Tauranga City Council

21 Devonport Road, Tauranga 3143

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting New Zealand

SLR Project No.: 850.016874.00001

Client Reference No.: TC212/25 - #009

24 July 2026

Revision: 1.0

Making Sustainability Happen

Tauranga City Council
Waiāri Ecological Monitoring

24 July 2026
SLR Project No.: 850.016874.00001
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20260724

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
V1.0	24 July 2026	Bridget Fijma	Nicola Pyper	Nicola Pyper

Basis of Report

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting New Zealand (SLR) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with Tauranga City Council (the Client). Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid. SLR may have used AI in the preparation of this document.

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Executive Summary

Tauranga City Council is authorised under a Bay of Plenty Regional Council resource consent (no. 65637) to abstract water from the Waiāri Stream. Abstracted water is treated at the Waiāri Water Treatment Plant in Te Puke and is used to supply drinking water to the Papamoa coastal strip and Te Tumu growth area, while also providing a backup supply for Mount Maunganui and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council's Te Puke township.

Resource consent conditions required three consecutive years of baseline ecological and water quality monitoring to be undertaken in the Waiāri Stream prior to construction of the water treatment plant commencing. With the plant now operational, ongoing monitoring is also required at the following intervals, as specified by resource consent conditions:

- Three consecutive years after abstraction reaches a rate greater than 30,000 cubic metres per day; and
- Once every five years thereafter.

Therefore, following the commencement of abstraction, annual monitoring was undertaken in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. In early 2026, Tauranga City Council engaged SLR Consulting New Zealand to repeat the annual water quality and freshwater ecological monitoring at both the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Waiāri Water Treatment Plant intake, in accordance with methodologies employed in previous surveys. This round of monitoring was not required by consent conditions, but instead had the purposes of training members of the Te Kapu O Waitaha iwi in the survey methodology. Surveys were completed in May 2026 and included a basic water quality assessment, macrophyte monitoring, a quantitative assessment of macroinvertebrate communities, and fish surveys.

To provide time for training, some small modifications were made to the methodology. For example, fyke nets and Gee minnows were deployed over two different nights (i.e., one night at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and one night at the Water Treatment Plant) to allow for sufficient time to identify and measure fish. In previous years nets were set at both sites on the same night. This modification is highly unlikely to impact survey results.

Surveyed fish communities were mostly diverse, with some notable results, such as the capture of three At Risk – Declining giant kōkōpu (*Galaxias argenteus*). Netting also revealed healthy population of At Risk – Declining longfin eels (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*), with a range of size classes captured. Some fish species which had previously been captured in high numbers were caught at relatively lower abundances. However this considered likely to reflect seasonal variation, as sampling in previous years has been undertaken in summer months (February-March). Macroinvertebrate survey results were consistent with previous sampling years. The calculated Macroinvertebrate Community Index scores for all sites were consistent with what would be expected in “Good” water quality conditions. Sensitive invertebrate taxa dominated all sites. Diversity was also high, especially at the sites near the Water Treatment Plant.

This (and previous) monitoring events that are additional to consent requirements are valuable as they support comparisons and trend analysis over time. This could be particularly useful information as abstraction rates increase, as the data will support a robust assessment of whether any changes in the Waiāri Stream's ecology are correlated with abstraction rates.

Overall, the results of the May 2026 sampling in the Waiāri Stream revealed no notable differences in water quality, macroinvertebrate, macrophyte, or fish assemblages when results from upstream and downstream of the WTP intake were compared



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Appendices

Appendix A Conditions 7.1 and 7.2 of Resource Consent 65637-AP

A.1 Condition 7 Monitoring and Reporting

Appendix B Raw Macroinvertebrate Data

Appendix C Raw Aquatic Plant Data



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BoPRC	Bay of Plenty Regional Council
%EPT	The proportional abundance of Ephemeroptera or mayflies; Plecoptera or stoneflies; Trichoptera or caddisflies
EPT	Ephemeroptera or mayflies; Plecoptera or stoneflies; Trichoptera or caddisflies
MCI	Macroinvertebrate Community Index
MCI-sb	Soft-bottomed variant of the Macroinvertebrate Community Index
MfE	Ministry for the Environment
QIBI	Quantile Index of Biotic Integrity
QMCI	Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index
QMCI-sb	Soft-bottomed variant of the Macroinvertebrate Community Index
SEM	Standard Error of the Mean
TCC	Tauranga City Council
WBOPDC	Western Bay of Plenty District Council
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant



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1.0 Introduction and Background

The Waiāri Stream is the second largest sub-catchment of the Kaituna River. The stream originates in the Mangorewa Forest and flows to the east of Te Puke in a northerly direction, approximately parallel to the Kaituna River. The surrounding landscape is varied, comprising native forests, exotic forestry, scrublands and agricultural areas. The Waiāri confluences with the Kaituna River just north of Te Puke and immediately upstream of the Kaituna River mouth.

Tauranga City Council (TCC) is authorised under a Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) resource consent (no. 65637) to abstract water from the Waiāri Stream. Abstracted water is treated at the Waiāri Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Te Puke and is used to supply drinking water to the Papamoa coastal strip and Te Tumu growth area, while also providing a backup supply to Mount Maunganui and for the Western Bay of Plenty District Council's (WBOPDC) Te Puke township.

Resource consent conditions (Condition 7.1, see Appendix A) required three consecutive years of baseline ecological and water quality monitoring to be undertaken in the Waiāri Stream prior to construction of the WTP commencing.

With the plant now operational, ongoing monitoring is required at the following intervals, as specified by resource consent conditions (Appendix A):

- Three consecutive years after abstraction reaches a rate greater than 30,000 cubic metres per day; and
- Once every five years thereafter.

Additionally, Condition 7.2 of the water take resource consent (Appendix A) outlines specific requirements for the ongoing monitoring. Specifically, quantitative monitoring of macroinvertebrate and fish communities, assessments of macrophyte cover, and basic water quality monitoring are required. Monitoring is to be conducted at designated points upstream and downstream of the Waiāri WTP intake, as well as upstream and downstream of the Te Puke wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), which discharges to Waiāri Stream. Surveys are to be carried out in February of each year of survey and undertaken in accordance with the following resource consent condition requirements:

Macroinvertebrate samples are to be collected using quantitative protocols, with macrophytes sampled at all four sites and hard-bottomed samples collected from two sites around the proposed intake site.

Fish surveys are to be undertaken using single-pass electric-fishing and baited G-minnow traps at all sites.

Water quality (temperature, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen) are to be recorded at each site.

In accordance with these conditions, prior to commissioning of the WTP, a series of comprehensive baseline monitoring activities were carried out for three seasons between 2010 – 2012 (Bioresearches, 2010, 2011, 2012). However, commissioning of the water intake project was put on hold due to reduced demand (Bioresearches, 2012). The construction of WTP infrastructure commenced in 2018. A repeat of biological monitoring was therefore undertaken in 2017 (4Sight Consulting, 2017) and supplemented by additional assessments in 2019, 2020, and 2021 (4Sight Consulting, 2019, 2020, 2021), prior to the water take commencing. Further sampling was undertaken in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 following the WTP commissioning to ensure a thorough evaluation of ecological and water



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quality was conducted in the Waiāri Stream (4Sight Consulting, 2022; 4Sight Consulting, 2023; Xu, 2024; SLR Consulting, 2025).

TCC engaged SLR in 2026 to undertake water quality and ecological monitoring at both the Te Puke WWTP and the Waiāri WTP intake. This monitoring was not required by resource consent conditions, as TCC has already completed the three consecutive monitoring events required to be undertaken after abstraction rates reached 30,000 cubic metres per day. The 2026 monitoring instead had the purpose of upskilling members of the Te Kapu o Waitaha iwi in the monitoring methodology

Monitoring was undertaken over three days, 5 to 7 May 2026. Survey methods aligned with those used during the previous sampling rounds (with the exception of the 2024 surveys, when alternative methods were used; see Xu, 2024). However, the timing of the monitoring in 2026 differed to previous years, as previous monitoring rounds have occurred in summer (typically February or early March). This report provides a summary of results obtained from the 2026 surveys.

2.0 Survey Methodology

2.1 Monitoring Locations

Four sites within the Waiāri stream were surveyed (Table 1). The locations of these sites aligned with those assessed in previous surveys. Monitoring Sites 1 and 2 are located approximately 90 m upstream and 120 m downstream, respectively, of the WTP intake. Sites 3 and 4 are located approximately 500 m upstream and 40 m downstream, respectively, of the Te Puke WWTP outfall. Sites 3 and 4 are approximately 5 km downstream of the Waiāri WTP and are accessed via a public walkway. All survey sites were marked with GPS and photographed for comparison with the past and future conditions of the stream.

Table 1: Site locations and GPS coordinates (NZGD and NZTM) of Waiāri Stream monitoring sites, May 2026.

Site	Site Description	NZGD (1949)		NZTM (NZGD, 2000)	
		Longitude	Latitude	Easting	Northing
1	Upstream of WTP intake	176.32871812	-37.82238545	1893023	5808866
2	Downstream of WTP intake	176.32980476	-37.81902126	1893132	5809236
3	Upstream of WWTP outfall	176.33924955	-37.78492379	1894099	5812991
4	Downstream of WWTP outfall	176.33824937	-37.78262778	1894020	5813249

2.2 Timing of Monitoring

Freshwater monitoring guidelines (Collier et al., 2014) generally advise that monitoring should be avoided in the two weeks following a flood flow or bed-moving high flow. Similarly, macroinvertebrate sampling protocols specify that sampling should not take place within four weeks of a flood (Stark et al., 2001). These measures are implemented to minimise data variability and maximise data reliability. TCC undertakes rainfall monitoring within the Waiāri Stream catchment, and rainfall data was obtained for the five weeks prior to the survey (31 March – 4 May). Flow is also measure prior and post WTP abstraction, and this data was also supplied by TCC.

Sampling took place on the 5-7 of May 2026. Sampling fish at a different time of year can produce variable results, both with regards to abundance and diversity, as some native fish



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follow seasonal migration patterns that comprise movements between coastal, river mouth, and/or estuarine environments. However, macroinvertebrate and macrophyte results should not be strongly influenced by the timing of surveys, provided the flow is stable prior to sampling. Equally, water quality should be consistent, excluding changes in water temperature. However, the timing of the 2026 sampling variation should be considered if the 2026 results are incorporated into future trend analyses.

2.3 Instream Monitoring

2.3.1 Water Quality Monitoring

Water temperature (°C), dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L) and saturation (%), turbidity (FNU), specific conductivity (µs/cm), and pH were measured at each site on two occasions using a pre-calibrated YSI DSS Pro meter. Measurements were made at each site during field surveys on the 5 and 6 of May.

2.3.2 Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

Macroinvertebrates are good indicators of water quality, as they show a wide range of responses depending on their degree of sensitivity to pollution. The macroinvertebrate community at a given site may be considered a result of the prevailing habitat and water quality. Consequently, macroinvertebrates are used widely in New Zealand as indicators of water quality.

Macroinvertebrate samples were collected from each of the four sites. The resource consent condition specifies that:

Invertebrate samples shall be collected using Protocols C3: Hard-bottomed Quantitative and C4: Soft-bottomed Quantitative of the Ministry for the Environment's "Protocols for Sampling Macroinvertebrates in Wadeable Streams". Hard substrates will be sampled above and below the intake and macrophytes will be sampled at four locations.

Consistent with previous monitoring occasions, there was insufficient aquatic plant growth at the upstream sites (Sites 1 and 2) to allow sampling of macrophytes (4Sight Consulting, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; SLR, 2025; Bioresarches, 2010, 2011, 2012). Additionally, areas of cobble and boulder habitat were generally absent, or outside of the sampling area, with soft sandy substrates dominating wadeable areas. For practicality and safety reasons, this precluded the use of either Protocol C3 or C4 (Stark et al., 2001), specified in the conditions of consent. Within the shallower – and safely accessible – sections of the stream, woody debris constituted the largest form of stable habitat. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) protocols (Stark et al., 2001) recommend sampling woody debris when macrophytes are absent from soft-bottomed stream habitats. Therefore, macroinvertebrate samples were collected from the woody debris at these two sites. Four replicate macroinvertebrate samples were collected from both sites.

At Site 1 and 2, samples were collected by placing a D-net (aperture 400 mm, mesh 0.5 mm) downstream of a section of wood and gently scrubbing the wood by hand to dislodge invertebrates, allowing the water current to carry individuals into the net. Macroinvertebrates from a total estimated surface area of three square metres were collected for each sample before being transferred into a plastic storage container. Each sample was stored separately and preserved in 70%-80% ethanol.

At downstream sites (Sites 3 and 4), above and below the WWTP outlet, macrophytes were sampled following macroinvertebrate sampling Protocol C4: Soft-bottomed Quantitative (Stark et al., 2001). Four replicate samples were collected from each of these sites. Samples



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were collected from the submerged tips of macrophytes. The Canadian pond weed (an oxygen weed, *Elodea canadensis*) was the only macrophyte from which samples were collected.

For each replicate sample at Sites 3 and 4, approximately 1.5 – 2 L of weed was collected in front of the D-net. The weed was transferred to a lidded bucket containing approximately 1 L of stream water. The bucket was shaken vigorously at least twenty times to dislodge individuals and the water contents poured through a 0.5 mm sieve. The shaking process was carried out a further two times for each sample before the contents of the sieve were transferred to a plastic storage container and each sample was stored separately and preserved in ethanol. Macrophytes were retained, transferred to a plastic bag, chilled, and returned to the laboratory to be dried at 70 °C for 24 hours before weighing.

Preserved macroinvertebrate samples were returned to the laboratory and sorted. Macroinvertebrates were identified to the lowest level practicable by an experienced taxonomist and counted using sample processing Protocol P3 (Stark *et al.*, 2001). The following biotic indices were calculated to assess the ecological condition of the community. Indices calculated included:

- **Taxa richness** refers to the number of distinct types of taxa within a sample.
- Ephemeroptera or mayflies; Plecoptera or stoneflies; Trichoptera or caddisflies (EPT, excluding *Oxyethira* and *Paroxyethira* species) comprise insects generally sensitive to pollution. The **percentage of EPT taxa** represents the proportion of all taxa collected that belong to one of these groups.
- **The percentage of EPT individuals (%EPT)** quantifies the proportional abundance of the three generally pollution-sensitive orders of insect out of all individual macroinvertebrates recorded from each sample.
- **The Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI)** evaluates the presence of individual macroinvertebrate taxa recorded based on an assigned score that reflects their tolerance or sensitivity to pollution, with scores ranging from one (highly tolerant) to ten (highly sensitive; Stark, 1998).
- **The Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index (QMCI)** was calculated from each site as quantitative protocols were used. The QMCI is also based on the average pollution sensitivity scores for individual taxa recorded. The QMCI shares similarities with MCI but also considers the number of individuals of each collected taxon in its assessment.

The soft-bottomed MCI variants (MCI-sb and QMCI-sb) were calculated according to equations set out in Stark and Maxted (2007). Scores of >120 and >6.0 (for MCI/MCI-sb and QMCI/QMCI-sb, respectively) are indicative of clean water or 'excellent' habitat quality, 100 – 120 and 5.0 – 6.0 are indicative of 'good' quality or mild organic pollution, 80 – 100 or 4.0 – 5.0 are indicative of 'fair' quality or probable moderate pollution, and scores <80 and <4.0 are indicative of 'poor' quality or probable severe pollution (Table 2, Stark, 1998; Stark & Maxted, 2007).



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Table 2: Interpretation of MCI and QMCI values based on Stark (1998) and J.D Stark & J.R Maxted (2007).

Quality	Descriptors	MCI or MCI-sb	QMCI or QMCI-sb
Excellent	Clean water	≥120	≥6
Good	Doubtful quality / possible mild pollution	100 – 120	5 – 6
Fair	Probable moderate pollution	80 – 100	4 – 5
Poor	Probable severe pollution	<80	<4

2.3.3 Macrophyte Monitoring

The macrophyte cover and species composition survey was carried out by visual assessment at each site. Water depth and swift, deep flows in the Waiāri Stream at both the Te Puke WWTP and Waiāri WTP prevented field assessors from wading across the full width of the stream. However, excellent visual clarity (i.e., low turbidity) enabled the visual assessment of five replicate transects across the stream at each site from the streambank. The transects were located at ten metre intervals and were used to identify the macrophyte species present and visually estimate the percentage cover of each identified macrophyte species and the approximate wetted width of the stream.

2.3.4 Fish Surveys

To sample fish communities, three un-baited fyke nets and five Marmite-baited Gee minnow traps were deployed at each site, consistent with previous surveys' methodology. Water depth, soft sediments, and swift stream flows prevented effective electric fishing at all sites. (Electric fishing is the method specified in consent conditions).

All fish captured were identified, counted, and their size estimated before being returned to their habitats. A Quantile Index of Biotic Integrity (QIBI) was calculated for each site based on fish species present, altitude, and distance inland (Joy et al., 2007; Suren, 2016).

3.0 Results

Results from surveys undertaken in May 2026 are displayed below.

3.1 Stream Flows and Rainfall

Data provided by TCC reveals that there was no rainfall in the 12 days preceding surveys. Data for the five weeks preceding the survey are displayed in (Figure 1). There were three rain events in the five weeks leading up to the survey that corresponded with higher flows in the Waiāri stream (Figure 2). However, in the two weeks preceding the survey, the flow was stable, varying between 4000 – 4500 litres per second. Therefore, the Waiāri Stream met the requirements outlined in Collier et al (2014), which direct that sampling should not occur for two weeks after high flows. In Figure 2, total flow refers to flow prior to (upstream of) the WTP abstraction, while residual flow is the remaining flow after (downstream of) the WTP abstraction. The gaps in the graph are due to high spikes in volume (>7,000 litres per second).



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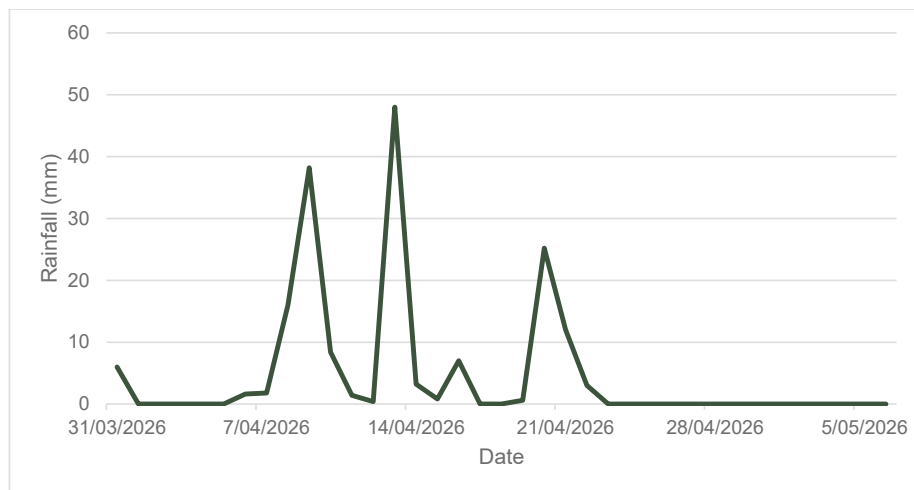


Figure 1: Rainfall data (daily total) for the five-week period leading up to the 2026 field surveys. Data courtesy of TCC, collected at the Waiāri WTP.

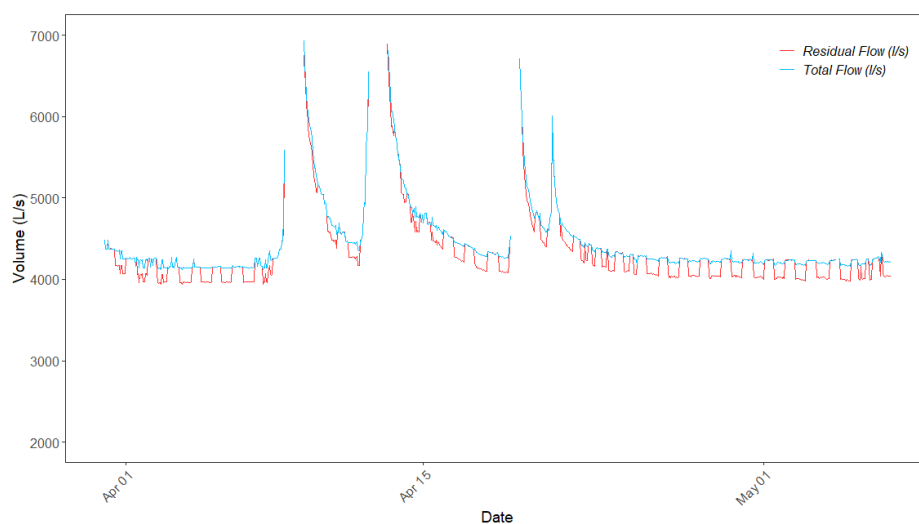


Figure 2: Graph showing flow at Waiāri WTP for the five weeks preceding surveys. Data provided by TCC.

3.2 Site Descriptions, Instream Habitats, and Water Quality

Water physico-chemical field measurements were collected from each site on 5 May and again on 6 May (Table 3 and Table 4). Samples were taken whilst conducting other surveys on site, leading them to be taken at various times throughout the day.



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3.2.1 Upper Waiāri Stream WTP Intake – Sites 1 and 2

Sites 1 (Photo 1) and 2 (Photo 2) are located upstream and downstream of the WTP intake, respectively. The Waiāri WTP intake structure is located adjacent to the true left bank of the stream and features a low-lying concrete weir structure that divides the channel. The reach directly downstream of the weir has been lined with riprap to mitigate erosion. The river level was visibly lower than that in previous years, likely due to recent fine, stable weather conditions. Site 1 had challenging access conditions in 2025 due to dense areas of mugwort and the steep bank. However, due to the lower water levels exposing low-gradient areas of unvegetated streambank, access had improved in 2026. Macrophytes were almost entirely absent from Sites 1 and 2, with only a small patch of starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*) observed at Site 1. However, woody debris were widespread throughout the bed of the stream at both Sites 1 and 2.

The Waiāri Stream is wide with fast, steady flow in the channel surrounding the WTP. Site 1 features steep banks, with the true left bank's floral community primarily comprised of mugwort (*Atemisia* sp.). The upstream extent of the true right bank has sparse vegetation and transitions into agriculture grassland above the bank, while the downstream section is steep and supports dense growth of exotics and natives. Site 2 and the area around the WTP intake have steep banks on the true right. This bank is vegetated with planted natives and various tall, herbaceous exotics consistent with vegetation at the downstream extent of Site 1. The true left bank has a lower profile and supports planted natives, which provide some bank stability. Sections around the WTP weir feature rock lined banks, although the majority of the riparian margin comprises soft sediments, such as sand and mud.

Water quality monitoring at Sites 1 and 2 was undertaken in the mornings of 5 and 6 May 2026. Results are provided in Table 3. Results show that the water was cool (13.3 °C - 13.5 °C) and extremely clear (0.23 FNU - 0.31 FNU). The stream was well oxygenated (107.7% - 109.4%; 11.24 mg/L - 11.45 mg/L) with conductivity within guideline values for the relevant River Environment Classification¹ (REC; 70.7 µS/cm – 72 µS/cm). The pH readings across the two days were slightly variable at Site 2, with readings of 6.82 and 7.2. Measurements taken across the two days at Site 1 were consistent and close to neutral (7.23 – 7.38). There were no significant differences between sites, and although pH varied, all measurements were within a suitable range (ANZECC, 2018).

¹ <https://www.waterquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/nz-rec-pc-stressor-dqv.xls>



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Photo 1: Representative photos of Site 1 (upstream WTP) looking downstream (left) and upstream (right) from the true left bank, May 2026.

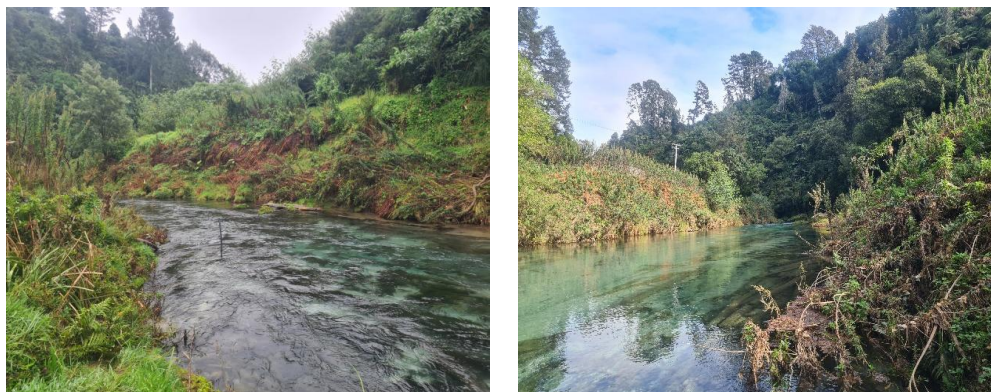


Photo 2: Representative photos of Site 2 (downstream WTP intake structure), looking downstream (left) and upstream (right) from the true left bank, May 2026.



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Table 3: Water quality parameters upstream and downstream of the WTP intake structure, 5 and 6 May 2026.

Parameter	Waiāri U/S WTP Intake (Site 1)		Waiāri D/S WTP Intake (Site 2)	
Date	5/05/2026	6/05/2026	5/05/2026	6/05/2026
Time (NZDST)	13:10	11:10	10:40	10:15
Temperature (°C)	13.5	13.5	13.3	13.5
Dissolved oxygen saturation (%)	109.3	108.5	109.4	107.7
Dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L)	11.38	11.32	11.45	11.24
Specific conductivity (µS/cm)	71.7	70.7	72.0	72.0
pH	7.23	7.38	6.82	7.24
Turbidity (FNU)	0.29	0.23	0.31	0.30

3.2.2 Lower Waiāri Stream – Sites 3 and 4

Site 3 (Photo 3) and Site 4 (Photo 4), located upstream and downstream of the WWTP outfall, respectively, are situated approximately two kilometres upstream of the confluence with the Kaituna River and five kilometres downstream of the WTP intake. At this location, the Waiāri Stream flows to the east of the Te Puke township, with surrounding land use dominated by pastoral farmland. This section of the stream is flanked on both sides by grazed stop banks used for flood protection. Riparian vegetation comprised exotic pasture grass, common pasture weeds, tall herbaceous species and the occasional willow. Vegetation on the true left bank at Site 4 had recently been sprayed and cleared, leaving it largely bare. Trees had been felled felling on the true right bank at Site 4 as well, although weeds (primarily mugwort) remained dense.

Habitat conditions at Site 3 remained largely consistent with previous years, with riparian vegetation intact and dense mugwort growth. Streambanks were steep, and water levels were visibly lower than in previous years. Access to the stream proved to be difficult at times, especially where tall herbaceous weeds were dense. Banks consisted of soft sediments, with some evidence of recent high flows having eroded the bank.

The stream surrounding the WWTP is wide and deep. Hydrological diversity is low, with fast runs being the main habitat type. Instream habitat conditions were largely consistent with previous years' observations. Streambed substrates throughout each reach were characterised by soft sand, with finer silty sediments trapped within the macrophyte beds. Macrophyte beds were comprised entirely of Canadian pondweed (an oxygen weed) and beds were limited to narrow bands along the stream edges. Average Canadian pondweed cover was 3% and 4% for Site 3 and Site 4, respectively.

Water quality measurements taken from Sites 3 and 4 are displayed in Table 4. Temperature was cool (14.1-14.4 °C) and well oxygenated (105.2 -107.9%; 10.82-11.07 mg/L). Turbidity (1.21-1.5 FNU) was higher than at the upstream sites, though still low, reflecting good clarity and low suspended solid concentrations. Conductivity at both downstream sites was relatively low (74.5-82.2 µS/cm) but marginally higher when compared with the upstream Sites, 1 and 2. This variation between the WTP and WWTP sites is consistent with results from previous years. The pH readings (7.11-7.26) were close to neutral and similar to those measurements taken at the upstream sites.



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Photo 3: Representative photos of Site 3 (upstream of WWTP discharge) looking downstream (left) and upstream (right) from the true left bank, May 2026.



Photo 4: Representative photos of Site 4 (downstream WWTP discharge) looking downstream (left) and upstream (right) from the true left bank, May 2026.



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Table 4: Water quality parameters upstream and downstream of the WWTP discharge, 5 and 6 May 2026.

Parameter	Waiāri U/S WWTP Outfall (Site 3)		Waiāri D/S WWTP Outfall (Site 4)	
Date	5/05/2026	6/05/2026	5/05/2026	6/05/2026
Time (NZDST)	15:55	13:05	15:10	12:35
Temperature (°C)	14.2	14.1	14.4	14.1
Dissolved oxygen saturation (%)	107.9	106.3	107.1	105.2
Dissolved oxygen concentration (mg/L)	11.07	10.94	10.95	10.82
Specific conductivity (µS/cm)	74.6	74.5	82.2	78.2
pH	7.22	7.26	7.11	7.25
Turbidity (FNU)	1.44	1.5	1.37	1.21

3.3 Macroinvertebrate Communities

The 2026 macroinvertebrate data is presented in its entirety in Appendix B and summarised (including biological indices) in Table 5. There were differences in how the upper Waiāri Stream macroinvertebrates were sampled compared with the lower Waiāri Stream due to the availability of macroinvertebrate substrates.

MCI is an index that relies on prior allocation of scores to freshwater macroinvertebrates according to their pollution tolerances (tolerance values from 0 to 10, Stark & Maxted, 2007). Taxa that are characteristic of pristine conditions score more highly than taxa that may be found in “polluted” conditions. QMCI is similar to MCI in that it relies on prior allocation of scores to freshwater macroinvertebrates, however, the metrics differ in the fact that QMCI also considers the relative abundance of each scoring taxon.

3.3.1 Upper Waiāri Stream, WTP intake – Sites 1 and 2

The macroinvertebrate communities at the sites upstream and downstream of the WTP intake were similar. Communities from both locations were dominated by the caddisfly (Trichoptera) genus, *Pycnocentroides*. *Pycnocentroides* is a stoney cased caddis that feeds on fine particulate matter and grazes on streambed algae. It has a relatively low indicator value in soft bottom streams (3.8). At Site 2, downstream of the WTP, taxon from the Diptera (True Flies) order were also dominant. However, taxa from the generally sensitive EPT (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera; or mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies) comprised over half of the taxa richness at both upper Waiāri Stream sites: 11 of the 20.5 species recorded from Site 1 (+/- 1.47 SEM), and 12.25 (+/- 0.63 SEM) out of the 20.5 species recorded from Site 2. Both Sites 1 and 2 had the same mean taxa diversity (i.e., number of taxa). The proportion of all counted individuals represented by EPT was also high at the upper Waiāri Stream sites: 69% (+/- 9.46 SEM) of the sample for Site 1 and 53% (13.44 +/- SEM) of the sample at Site 2. Collectively, these indices reveal that the EPT taxa are relatively diverse and present in moderate to high abundance within the community.

MCI scores were slightly higher at Site 1, while QMCI scores were higher for Site 2. Both Site 1 and 2 fall in the “Good” category for MCI, with scores indicative of possible mild organic pollution. The QMCI scores placed them both in the “Fair” category, indicating probable moderate pollution.



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Table 5: Summary of macroinvertebrate metrics across the four sites in Waiāri Stream.

Site	Sample	Taxa Richness (No. of Taxa)	No. EPT Taxa	%EPT Taxa	%EPT Abundance ²	MCI-sb	QMCI-sb
1 (Waiāri U/S WTP)	A	27	14	52	65	112.9	4.3
	B	22	12	55	80	113.1	4.3
	C	21	11	52	43	111.6	4.4
	D	12	7	58	86	110.2	4.6
Mean		20.5	11.00	54.28	69	111.94	4.38
SEM³		3.12	1.47	1.47	9.46	0.68	0.07
2 (Waiāri D/S WTP)	A	22	12	55	25	109.5	4.6
	B	25	14	56	43	111.7	4.8
	C	16	11	69	89	110.1	4.4
	D	19	12	63	54	115.2	4.6
Mean		20.5	12.25	60.61	53	111.63	4.60
SEM		1.94	0.63	3.30	13.44	1.26	0.08
3 (Waiāri U/S WWTP)	A	19	11	58	39	104.9	4.5
	B	31	15	48	57	113.1	5.9
	C	17	9	53	55	108.9	5.7
	D	10	5	50	54	111.6	6.3
Mean		19.25	11.75	52.32	51	109.65	5.61
SEM		4.37	2.08	2.08	4.17	1.79	0.38
4 (Waiāri D/S WWTP)	A	16	9	56	27	104.4	4.5
	B	21	12	57	29	112.0	4.5
	C	17	11	65	56	103.1	4.7
	D	12	7	58	65	101.2	5.6
Mean		16.5	9.75	59.11	44	105.5	4.85
SEM		1.85	1.10	1.91	9.61	2.38	0.27

Density, which is the number of individual taxa per metre squared survey was higher at Site 1 (163 individuals per m² +/- 75 SEM) than Site 2 (125 individuals per m² +/- 25 SEM).

² %EPT (abundance) = the proportion of community abundance made up by EPTs.

³ SEM = Standard Error of the Mean



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Density was lower when compared with 2025 and more similar to densities recorded in the 2023 surveys (4Sight Consulting, 2023; SLR, 2025).

3.3.2 Lower Waiāri Stream, Te Puke WWTP – Sites 3 and 4

The macroinvertebrate communities at the sites upstream and downstream of the Te Puke WWTP differed in species composition when compared with Sites 1 and 2 and exhibited a lower taxonomic diversity. The dominant order at Site 3 was Ephemeroptera, part of the EPT group, with the mayfly taxon, *Zephlebia*, most common. *Zephlebia*, a double gilled mayfly, is a common taxon that feeds on diatom algae and organic matter on stone surfaces. It has a high MCI tolerance value for soft bottom streams (8.8), meaning it is not tolerant of pollution.

Site 4 was dominated by Diptera (or true fly), with *Austrosimulium* being the most common genus. Dipterans are generally pollution tolerant. The *Austrosimulium* sandfly is a filter feeder that feeds on drifting fine particulate organic matter. It has an indicator value of 3.9, indicating it is a pollution tolerant genus.

Taxa from the EPT orders comprised over half of the species found in the samples collected from both Sites in the Lower Waiāri Stream: 11.75 (+/- 2.08 SEM) out of 19.25 species for Site 3, and 9.75 (+/- 1.10 SEM) out of 16.5 species for Site 4. In addition, more than half of the total sample abundance at Site 3 was from EPT orders: 51% (+/- 4.17 SEM). However, 44% of total sample abundance at Site 4 (+/- 9.61 SEM) was represented by EPTs. The large standard errors of the mean are a result of the high variation between samples. These results show that the EPT taxa are relatively diverse and are recorded in moderate abundance within the macroinvertebrate community.

MCI scores for Sites 3 and 4 were lower than MCI scores for both Sites 1 and 2. Conversely, QMCI scores were higher at Sites 3 and 4. Site 3 fell within the “Good” category for both MCI and QMCI. Site 4, downstream of the WWTP, fits within the “Good” category for MCI and the “Fair” category for QMCI.

Density (number of individuals per gram of dried macrophyte) was obtained for Sites 3 and 4 (Figure 3). The average density was low, although the first sample taken from Site 3 had a high density of macroinvertebrates. This high density was an anomaly and does not appear to be representative of the density found at Site 3, based on the other three samples collected.



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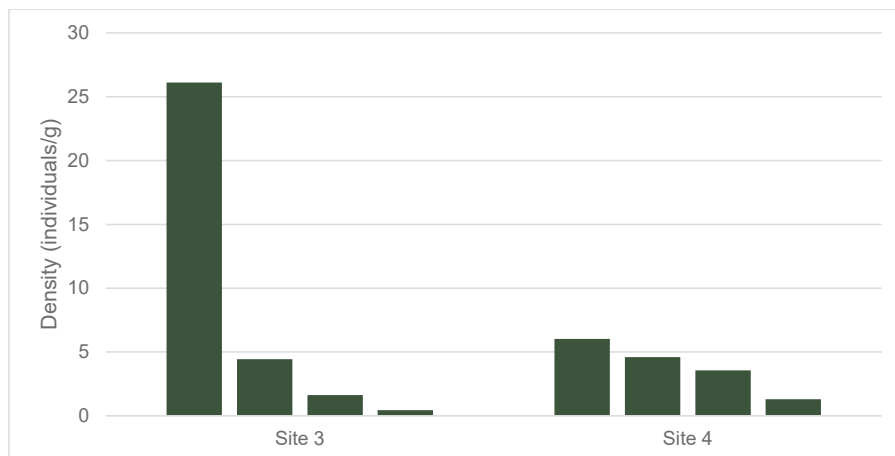


Figure 3: Density of macroinvertebrate individuals for each gram of macrophyte sampled, Waiāri Stream Sites 3 and 4, May 2026.

3.3.3 Comparison with Previous Years

The average MCI and QMCI for each Site and each year is displayed in Figure 4 and Figure 5 respectively. Variation from year to year was similar for Sites 1 and 2. Similarly, variation from year to year for Sites 3 and 4 is similar. The MCI and QMCI results from May 2026 were similar at all sites.

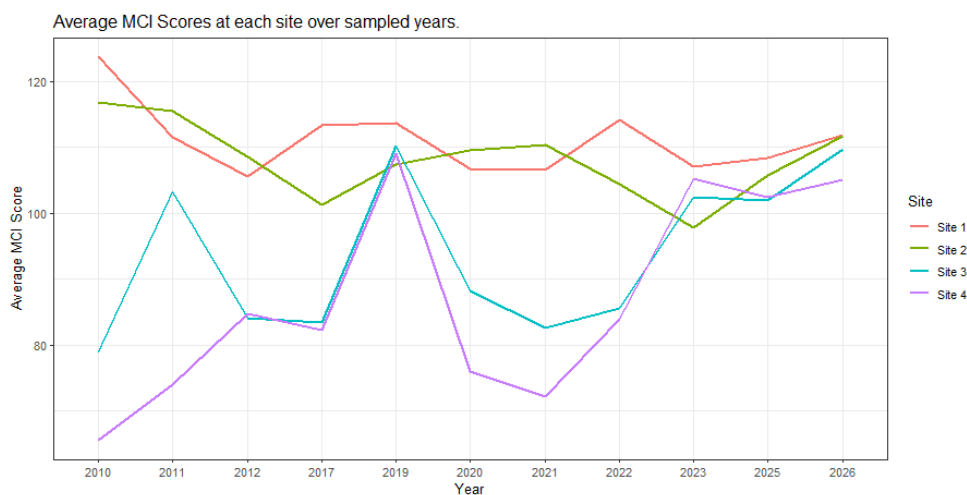


Figure 4: Average MCI scores at all Waiāri sample Sites over entire survey period.



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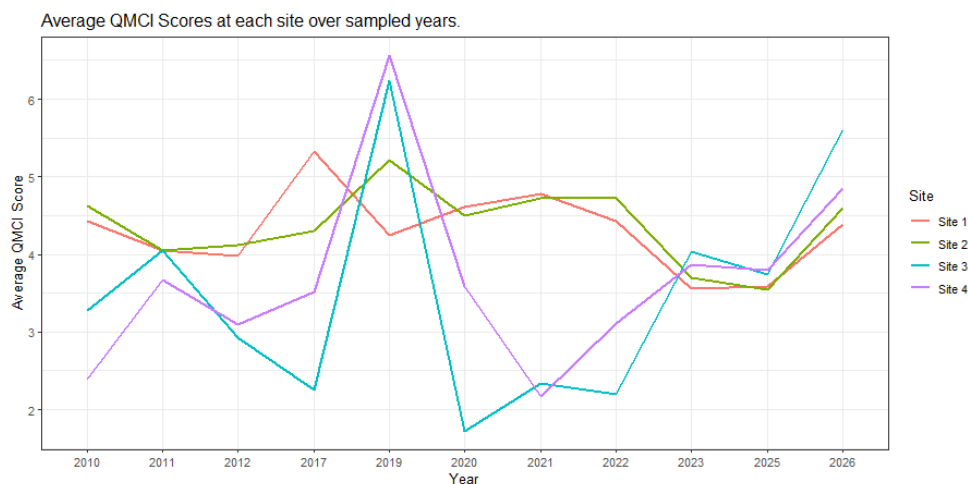


Figure 5: Average QMCI scores at all Waiāri sample Sites over entire survey period.

3.4 Fish Communities

3.4.1 Survey Results

Fish trapping was undertaken at the Waiāri WTP intake (Sites 1 and 2) and in the vicinity of the WWTP (Sites 3 and 4). The fish trapping results show that the Waiāri Stream hosts a diversity of fish species, with a total of six native fish species recorded during the 2026 fish surveys (Table 6). Five species were recorded upstream of WTP and four species downstream of the WTP. Only two species were recorded upstream of the WWTP, and four species were recorded downstream. Overall recorded fish diversity was less than that reported in 2025. This is considered likely to be due to the variation in the timing of the surveys, as previous years' surveys were conducted in February/March, compared to the 2026 surveys, which were carried out in May.

Many of our native freshwater fish species have life cycles that require migration between freshwater and saline or brackish environments, often for the purposes of spawning or rearing. Īnanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) were recorded in abundance in the summer 2025 surveys. However, they migrate downstream to estuarine environments in early autumn for the purposes of spawning⁴, likely explaining the low abundance recorded observed in the May 2026 survey. Additionally, common smelt (*Retropinna retropinna*) spend a part of their life cycle in marine environments and are usually only present in freshwater streams in spring and summer⁵. There is some natural variation to this timing but this likely accounts for the reduced number of common smelt recorded this survey.

Common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) were recorded in abundance in 2025, however, not recorded at any site in 2026. Similarly, shortfin eels (*Anguilla australis*) were present at two sites (Sites 1 and 4) in 2025 but not recorded in 2026. Torrentfish (*Cheimarrichthys fosteri*) were observed for the first time in 2025 at Site 2 but were not recorded in 2026. Four

⁴ Īnanga life cycle | Whitebait and whitebaiting | Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand

⁵ Smelt: New Zealand freshwater fish



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giant kōkopu (*Galaxias argenteus*) were recorded (Photo 5) across Sites 1 and 2, the most ever captured. A good number of longfin eels (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) was also captured (Photo 6).

Table 6: Fish species recorded at Waiāri sampling sites, May 2026.

Genus	Species	Common Name	WTP Intake		WWTP Outfall	
			Site 1 (Waiāri U/S WTP)	Site 2 (Waiāri D/S WTP)	Site 3 (Te Puke U/S WWTP)	Site 4 (Te Puke D/S WWTP)
<i>Anguilla</i>	<i>dieffenbachii</i>	Longfin eel	5	23	15	10
<i>Galaxias</i>	<i>argenteus</i>	Giant kōkopu	1	3	-	-
<i>Galaxias</i>	<i>fasciatus</i>	Banded kōkopu	1	1	-	-
<i>Galaxias</i>	<i>maculatus</i>	Īnanga	-	-	-	2
<i>Gobiomorphus</i>	<i>huttoni</i>	Redfin bully	6	15	-	2
<i>Retropinna</i>	<i>retropinna</i>	Common smelt	3	-	1	9
Total number of fish			16	42	16	23

Fish QIBI was calculated for all sites, and all but one site (Site 3) falls in the NPS-FM “A” category (Table 7). The Bay of Plenty, has regional categories for IBI, and using these categories puts Site 4 into the “B” category. Sites 1 and 2 had the highest rating, as these sites support the highest species diversity.

Table 7: QIBI scores for the Waiāri Stream, May 2026.

Site		QIBI Score	NPS Category	BOP Regional IBI Category	Rating
Upper Waiāri	Site 1	48	A	A	Excellent
	Site 2	46	A	A	Good
Lower Waiāri	Site 3	22	C	C	Poor
	Site 4	34	A	B	Moderate



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Photo 5: Giant kōkopu captured at Site 1 (left) and Site 2 (right), May 2026.



Photo 6: Longfin eel captured at Site 1, May 2026.



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4.0 Discussion

This report provides the results of the 2026 ecological survey of the Waiāri Stream, consistent with the requirements of conditions 7.1 and 7.2 resource consent 65637. In accordance with the survey requirements specified in consent conditions, the survey focusses on the habitats surrounding the WTP intake and the Te Puke WWTP outfall, further downstream. Seven years of baseline monitoring were undertaken between 2010 and 2021 prior to the commissioning of the WTP. More recently, but prior to abstraction commencing, annual monitoring was commissioned by TCC between 2018 and 2022, additional to consent requirements. This additional monitoring was intended to provide a broader picture of the features and values of the Waiāri Stream's aquatic community prior to the water take commencing.

Following the commencement of abstraction, annual monitoring was undertaken in 2023, 2024, and 2025, although alternative methodology was used for the 2024 survey. The 2026 survey is the twelfth survey of the Waiāri Stream, and the fourth survey effort undertaken post-commissioning of the WTP.

The 2026 round of monitoring had the purpose of upskilling members of the Te Kapu o Waitaha iwi. Previous rounds of monitoring have generally been undertaken in summer months, however, the 2026 survey was completed in May. The fish assemblages recorded in May 2026 differed somewhat to previous years. This is thought likely to be due to seasonal variation. As many native freshwater fish have life stages that include annual migration to saline, brackish, or river mouth environments for spawning or rearing, differences in abundance and diversity of the native fish species recorded in 2026 are considered likely a reflection of these seasonal fish movements. A range of sizes within the species recorded is a good indicator that recruitment is occurring and that there is good habitat in the stream.

Macroinvertebrate surveys were conducted using the C4 protocol for soft bottom streams. This sampling involved surveying macrophytes where applicable (lower Waiāri WWTP sites), and woody debris where this was not available (upper Waiāri WTP sites). Species assemblages differed between the lower and upper Waiāri. This reflects different habitat types, with macrophytes being the most available habitat at the lower Waiāri sites, and woody debris being the most available habitat for invertebrates at the upper Waiāri sites.

Macrophyte diversity and abundance was low. Variation in macrophyte extent has been recorded over previous monitoring rounds, with notable reductions observed following the 2023 flood events (4Sight Consulting, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023; SLR, 2025; Bioresarches, 2010, 2011, 2012). Canadian pond weed has consistently been the dominant macrophyte species at the WWTP sites (macrophytes are largely absent in the upper Waiāri), and the 2026 monitoring confirms that this continues to be the case.

Overall, the results of the May 2026 sampling in the Waiāri Stream revealed no notable differences in water quality, macroinvertebrate, macrophyte, or fish assemblages when results from upstream and downstream of the WTP intake were compared⁶.

⁶ Note no formal statistical analysis was undertaken to test for differences between sites. A full analysis will be undertaken following the 2027 summer monitoring.



4.1 Ongoing Monitoring

As previously noted, the 2026 round of aquatic ecological data collection documented in this report is additional to the requirements of the abstraction consent (consent no. 65637). Consent conditions require monitoring to occur three consecutive years after abstraction reaches a rate greater than 30,000 m³/day, and once every five years thereafter, or between these two survey periods if there is more than five years between them (see Appendix A). It is noted that a round of monitoring that aligns with consent conditions will be required in the summer of 2027 to accord with the requirements of the resource consent. However, TCC is considering the benefits of ongoing monitoring outside of consent requirements, and whether modifications to the parameters measured and/or frequency of data collection would be beneficial.

Before modifying the monitoring programme of the Waiāri Stream, we recommend establishing the objectives of the stream monitoring that would be undertaken additional to consent requirements, as this would inform the type of data collected. At a minimum, it is recommended that macroinvertebrate community monitoring continue annually to augment existing information. If the intention is to detect effects of the abstraction activity, it is important that the monitoring protocols and methods are not altered from those used until now, as any change made to methodology prevents a robust comparison between sampling events and/or trend analysis. Similarly, changes to monitoring locations should be avoided. Continued collection of macroinvertebrate data would be beneficial for the purposes of comparison and trend analysis. This is especially important as abstraction rates increase to the consented limits. Larnard and Snelder (2012) and Stark and Maxted (2007b) recommend that trend analysis be conducted on sites with at least 10 years of data.

However, some modifications to the protocols could be considered. Firstly, the frequency of the fish surveys could be reduced to the regularity required by consent conditions (three to five years), as monitoring results suggest that a range of native fish species, including those with weaker swimming abilities, are able to pass the weir and abstraction site and, therefore, there is no indication that there has been an impact on fish passage. Secondly, the aquatic macrophyte surveys could be removed from the monitoring programme or reduced in regularity to that specifically required by the consent, as the stream reaches in the vicinity of the WTP support a very sparse community of macrophytes and macrophyte monitoring at this site provides little meaningful ecological information.

5.0 Summary and Closure

The 2026 survey of the Waiāri Stream determined that the stream provides habitat for a diverse range of native fish species, with several native fish species observed both above and below the abstraction weir. The reduced diversity of fish observed this year is likely attributable to the time of year the survey was undertaken (May) and is highly unlikely to be a result of abstraction activities. The macroinvertebrate results showed a relatively diverse range of macroinvertebrate taxa, similar to what has been recorded in the past.

Results from the 2026 survey are generally consistent with previous year surveys. The 2026 results provide no indication that abstraction is having an adverse effect on stream health. This will continue to be monitored, with another round of monitoring planned for summer 2027, in accordance with consent requirements. Ongoing data collection, focusing on macroinvertebrate community monitoring in line with methods that have been consistently repeated prior to abstraction commencing will allow trend analyses to be undertaken.



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Sincerely,

SLR Consulting New Zealand



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7.0 Feedback

At SLR, we are committed to delivering professional quality service to our clients. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of our deliverables and our service to our clients. Client feedback is a valuable tool in helping us prioritise services and resources according to our client needs.

To achieve this, your feedback on the team's performance, deliverables and service are valuable and SLR welcome all feedback via <https://www.slrconsulting.com/en/feedback>. We recognise the value of your time and we will make a \$10 donation to our Charity Partner - Lifeline, for every completed form.



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Appendix A Conditions 7.1 and 7.2 of Resource Consent 65637-AP

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A.1 Condition 7 Monitoring and Reporting

7.1 The consent holder shall undertake a survey in the Waiari Stream during February in each of the years listed below. This survey shall be undertaken on both hard substrates and macrophytes in the Waiari Stream and shall be undertaken:

- Three consecutive years prior to construction of the water supply scheme commencing; and
- Three consecutive years after abstraction reaches a rate greater than 30,000 cubic metres per day; and
- Once every five years thereafter and between the two survey periods specified above if there is more than 5 years between them for the duration of this consent.

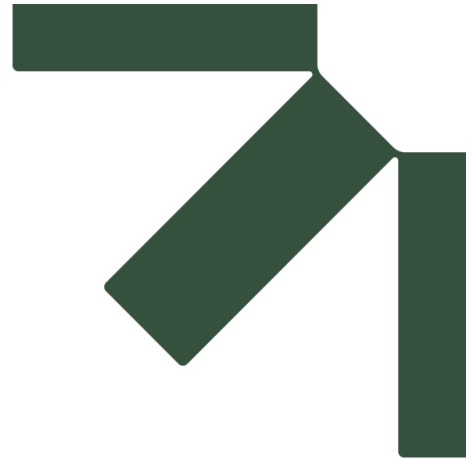
7.2 The survey required by condition 7.1 shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional at the following four locations along the Waiari Stream

- Above and below the water intake site; and
 - Above and below the Te Puke wastewater treatment plant discharge point.
- and using the following methods:
- Invertebrate samples shall be collected using Protocols C3: Hard-bottomed Quantitative and C4: Soft-bottomed Quantitative of the Ministry for the Environment's "Protocols for Sampling Macroinvertebrates in Wadeable Streams". Hard substrates will be sampled above and below the intake and macrophytes will be sampled at four locations. Samples shall be sorted, identified to the lowest practicable level, and counted and biotic indices calculated, namely taxa richness, % EPT, MCI (Macroinvertebrate Community Index) and SQMCI (Semi-Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index); and
 - Fish surveys shall be carried out by single-pass electric-fishing of run/riffle areas above and below the intake and by baited G-minnow traps set over night at all four locations. The number of each fish species caught shall be recorded, along with the area fished and/or number of traps. The same locations should be surveyed on each occasion, if practicable.

and shall be provided in a report format including the following information:

- The temperature at each of the four survey locations;
- The pH at each of the four survey locations;
- The turbidity at each of the four survey locations;
- The dissolved oxygen (DO) at each of the four survey locations;
- Invertebrate composition on both hard substrates and macrophytes including taxa richness, macroinvertebrate indices and the relative abundance of the species present; and
- Fish composition including taxa richness and the relevant abundance of the species present.





Appendix B Raw Macroinvertebrate Data

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ORDER	TAXON	MCI-sb tolerance value	US WTP				DS WTP				US WWTP				DS WWTP			
			A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
ACARINA	ACARINA	5.2	1	1	2		1			1		7	3			3		
COLEOPTERA	Elmidae	7.2		2			1			2		2				1		
CRUSTACEA	<i>Paratya</i>	3.6									2	1	4	4			1	2
DIPTERA	<i>Aphrophila</i>	5.6	2				1	1										
	<i>Austrosimulium</i>	3.9	2					4			76	65	6	1	56	52	9	2
	Ceratopogonidae	6.2										1						
	<i>Chironomus</i>	3.4									1					2		
	Empididae	5.4	2	3	2	2	1	1				3		1				
	<i>Eriopterini</i>	7.5	1							2					2			
	<i>Harrisius</i>	4.7	1					2										
	<i>Lobodiamesa</i>	7.7							1									
	<i>Maoridiamesa</i>	4.9	2	2			1	2	1									
	<i>Mischoderus</i>	5.9			1							2	1					
	<i>Molophilus</i>	6.3										3						
	Muscidae	1.6			1													
	Orthocladinae	3.2	46	24	1		43	49	8	30	52	21			29	64	7	6



	<i>Polypedilum</i>	8.0	2	2	5	2	8	19		6	2	28	7	9	1	3		
	<i>Stictocladius</i>	-	1															
	<i>Tanypodinae</i>	6.5										1					2	
	<i>Tanytarsini</i>	4.5	98	177	35	5	109	242	15	109	9	12			11	13		3
EPHEMER OPTERA	<i>Austroclima</i>	6.5														1		
	<i>Austronella</i>	4.7														1	2	
	<i>Coloburiscus</i>	8.1		7	1			13			2	5						
	<i>Deleatidium</i>	5.6	2	2			2	1										1
	<i>Mauiulus</i>	4.1	1	6			2	8	2		31	46	4	1	6	15	12	6
	<i>Nesameletus</i>	8.6	4	6	3	10	3	6	12	11	2	1	1			2	1	2
	<i>Zephlebia</i>	8.8	2	2	2	4	6	10	2	2	84	124	39	10	21	13	5	9
MEGALOPTERA	<i>Archichauliodes</i>	7.3			2													
MOLLUSCA	<i>Physa = Physella</i>	0.1											1					
	<i>Potamopyrgus</i>	2.1	5	10	40	17	12	4	9	23	148	48	36	7	28	3	14	2
NEMATODA	NEMATODA	3.1										2						
NEMATOMORPHA	NEMATOMORPHA	4.3						2				1						
ODONATA	<i>Procordulia</i>	3.8		1		1												
OLIGOCHAETA	OLIGOCHAETA	3.8	1	1	1		1	3			2	2	2		1	4	1	



PLECOPTERA	<i>Megaleptoperla</i>	7.3							4									
	<i>Zelandobius</i>	7.4	3	15	5	1	5	11	7	19	12	18	4	5	6	11	6	
	<i>Zelandoperla</i>	8.9	1	1			2	2										
TRICHOPTERA	<i>Beraeoptera</i>	7.0		5														
	<i>Confluens</i>	7.2	2					2		1								
	<i>Costachorema</i>	7.2	1															
	<i>Hudsonema</i>	6.5														1		
	Hydrobiosidae early instar	6.7	1					2							2	1	1	
	<i>Hydrobiosis</i>	6.7									2	3	1			2	1	
	<i>Hydropsyche</i> - <i>Aoteapsyche</i>	6.0	1		1			6	3	1	1	1						
	<i>Neurochorema</i>	6.0	3	10	1		3	7	2	5		2			1			
	<i>Oxyethira</i>	1.2		1	1	8	2	1	1	2	2	1			1		1	
	<i>Paroxyethira</i>	3.7					1			1								
	<i>Polyplectropus</i>	8.1										2	2					
	<i>Psilochoresma</i>	7.8			1							4						



	<i>Pycnocentr ia</i>	6.8	32	84	14	33	13	41	19	29	29	32	17	6	5	7	11	8
	<i>Pycnocentr odes</i>	3.8	254	776	32	100	18	142	216	125	4	2	4		1	2	2	1
	<i>Triplectides</i>	5.7			8	4	2		3	4	15	17	1	4	4	3	1	1
	<i>Zelandoptil a</i>	7.0										1						
	<i>Zelolessica</i>	6.5	1							3								
Number of taxa			27	22	21	12	22	25	16	19	19	31	17	10	16	21	17	12
Number of EPT taxa (incl. Hydroptilidae)			14	12	11	7	12	14	11	12	11	15	9	5	9	12	11	7
Number of EPT taxa (excl. Hydroptilidae)			14	11	10	6	10	13	10	10	10	14	9	5	8	12	10	7
% EPT taxa (incl. Hydroptilidae)			52	55	52	58	55	56	69	63	58	48	53	50	56	57	65	58
% EPT taxa (excl. Hydroptilidae)			52	50	48	50	45	52	63	53	53	45	53	50	50	57	59	58
% EPT abundance (incl. Hydroptilidae)			65	80	43	86	25	43	89	54	39	57	55	54	27	29	56	65
% EPT abundance (excl. Hydroptilidae)			65	80	43	81	24	43	89	53	38	56	55	54	26	29	55	65
MCI-sb score			112.	113.	111.	110.	109.	111.	110.	115.	104.	113.	108.	111.	104.	112.	103.	101.
QMCI-sb score			9	1	6	2	5	7	1	2	9	1	9	6	4	0	1	2
			4.3	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.5	5.9	5.7	6.3	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.6



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Appendix C Raw Aquatic Plant Data

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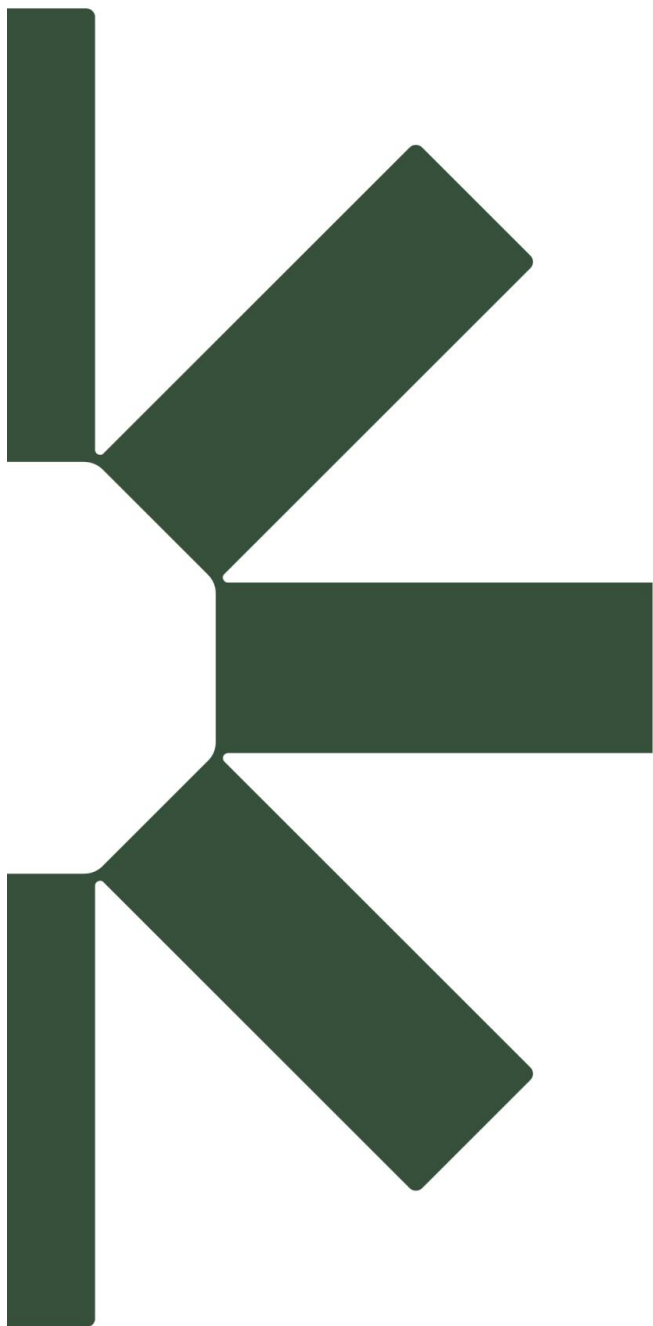
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Site	Transect	Stream Width (m)	Starwort (<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>)	Canadian pondweed / oxygen weed (<i>Elodea canadensis</i>)
Site 1	a	14	0	0
	b	14	0	0
	c	12	1% on edge	0
	d	12	0.5% on edge	0
	e	14	1% on edge + logs	0
	Mean	13.2	0.50%	0
Site 2	a	12	0	0
	b	10	0	0
	c	10	0	0
	d	12	0	0
	e	13	0	0
	Mean	11.4	0	0
Site 3	a	10	0	1%
	b	11	0	0
	c	10	0	0.50%
	d	10	0	5%
	e	10	0	10%
	Mean	10.2	0	3%
Site 4	a	12	0	7%
	b	13	0	5%
	c	13	0	3%
	d	12	0	4%
	e	12	0	2%
	Mean	12.4	0	4.20%

C-1





Making Sustainability Happen

9.3 Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings

File Number: A20980397

Author: Quentin Tawaka, Governance Advisor

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

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report provides a status update on actions requested during previous City Delivery Committee meetings

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group:

- (a) Receives the report "Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings".

BACKGROUND

2. This is a recurring report provided to every City Delivery Committee meeting. The next report will be to the 25 November 2026 meeting.
3. The attached update includes all open actions and actions completed since the last meeting on 10 June 2026.
4. Once reported, completed actions are archived and made available in the Stellar library².

DISCUSSION

5. The action status update report for the Status Updates on Actions from prior Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group meetings, as at 19 August 2026, is provided as **Attachment 1** to this report, and is summarised in the table below.

Status of actions	No. actions
Closed (<i>completed since the last report</i>)	0
Pending (waiting on something)	0
In progress	3
To be actioned	2
Total actions included in this report	5

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment 1 - Actions from Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group as at 19 August 2026 - A20980444** [↓](#) 

² Stellar pathway: Council & Committees → City Delivery Committee → 2025 → Actions from City Delivery Committee meetings.

Waiāri Kaitiaki Advisory Group				Actions status update as at: 14 August 2026			
Meeting Date	Agenda Ref.	Report Name	Action required	Status Update (incl anticipated / actual completion date)	Status Summary	Date Closed	GM / CE Responsible
11 Mar 2026	9.3	Waiāri Cultural Recognition Update - March 2026	That iwi representatives meet to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding before any staff involvement.	Cr Darlene Dinsdale to arrange	In progress		Reneke van Soest
11 Mar 2026	9.4	Water Usage for Marae within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe	That the Head of City Waters and the Community Engagement Advisor: Infrastructure Delivery provide a report on marae water usage as a percentage of total take and support the development of a strong, timely recommendation for full water charge remission.	Further consideration needed for a consistent approach for remissions with TCC and WBOPDC due to different approaches. Recommend this is dealt with by the Water Organisation. This is to be discussed in the meeting.	In progress		Reneke van Soest
11 Mar 2026	9.4	Water Usage for Marae within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe	That Councillor Darlene Dinsdale coordinate the establishment of a working group (with tangata whenua, elected members, and staff) to draft a Memorandum of Understanding for Cultural Recognition 7 and report back at the next meeting.	Cr Darlene Dinsdale to arrange	In progress		Reneke van Soest
10 Jun 2026	7.2	Clarity from 11 March 2026 meeting Item 9.4 - Water Usage for Marae within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe resolution WA/26/0/6 (c)	That the Waiari Kaitiaki Advisory Group provide clarity on which marae were included in the recommendation, with staff to distribute a draft paper and seek input via email. The resolution will be interpreted as recommending free water for all marae in the Waiari catchment, with staff pausing work on the MOU until further clarification was obtained.	Report on Services to Marae to go to Tauranga Council in October	In progress		Reneke van Soest
10 Jun 2026	7.2	Clarity from 11 March 2026 meeting Item 9.4 - Water Usage for Marae within the Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council Rohe resolution WA/26/0/6 (c)	Draft and distribute the issues and options paper to respective councils recommending free water for all Marae in the Waiari catchment and those within TCC impacted by the original water take, ensuring clarity on which Marae were included.	Report on Services to Marae to go to Tauranga Council in October	In progress		Reneke van Soest

10 DISCUSSION OF LATE ITEMS

11 CLOSING KARAKIA