

Report 14.404
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Committee Council
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Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee establishment and terms of reference

1. Purpose

This report seeks Council approval for:

- The establishment of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee as an advisory group to Council
- Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee Terms of Reference; and
- The process for identifying suitable candidates for appointment to Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee.

2. Background

The establishment of whaitua committees as a method for implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFW) was noted by Council at its meeting on 12 December 2012 (Report 12.531 refers). 'Whaitua' is a traditional Te Reo Māori term for a designated area. The Regional Plan utilises 'whaitua' to describe a catchment or sub-catchment managed as an integrated system.

Report 12.531 proposed that each whaitua committee will use a collaborative model to develop recommendations for land and water management within their whaitua/catchment area. The report also proposed that each whaitua committee will, over time, act as a conduit for the better integration of activities aimed at managing land and water resources within their whaitua/catchment area.

The first whaitua committee to be established in the Wellington region was in the Ruamāhanga whaitua. The next committee to be established is in Te Awarua o Porirua whaitua. The remaining three whaitua committees will be established, in a staggered manner, over the next five years.

The general boundaries of the five whaitua across the region are illustrated in Figure 1.

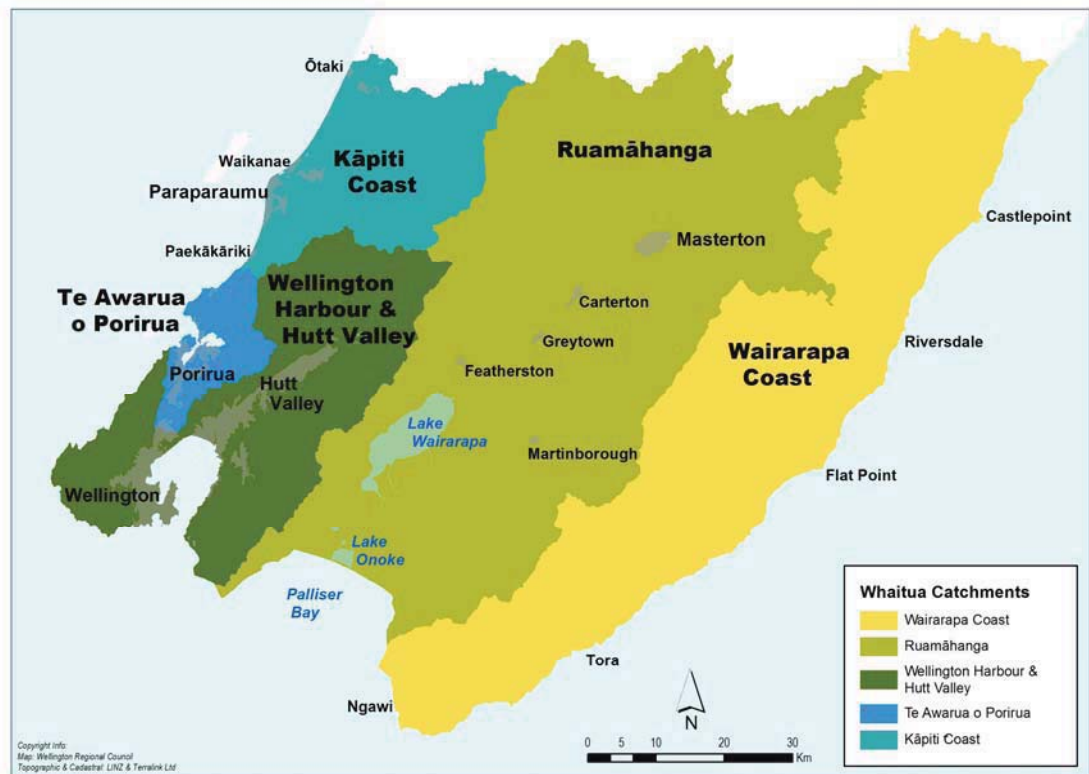


Figure 1: Map of whaitua catchments

2.1 Partnership

Greater Wellington Regional Council, in partnership with tangata whenua, will develop and run the whaitua process in each catchment area. In their role of mana whenua, tangata whenua will determine appropriate tangata whenua representation and how the whaitua will be supported in kawa, tikanga and matauranga iwi (process, practice and traditional knowledge).

The principles that guide Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee in the review of the regional plan will also form the basis of guiding principles to aid each whaitua committee in their decision-making. These principles are:

- Ki uta Ki tai (interconnectedness) – the recognition that natural and physical resources are interconnected, reliant on one another and need to be managed as a whole
- Wairuatanga (identity) – a recognition of connections between natural processes and human cultures
- Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) – the understanding that these all have a role as guardians of the natural environment
- Tō mātou whakapono (judgement based on knowledge) – understanding that our actions and decisions need to be considered and based on the best available information, and
- Mahitahi (partnership) – that in good faith Greater Wellington Regional Council, iwi and other sectors of the community work collaboratively in

the development and implementation of the second generation regional plan.

2.2 The role of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will be an advisory body established by Greater Wellington Regional Council. It is intended that Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee's role, of developing a Whaitua Implementation Programme, is carried out in an open, communicative and collaborative manner – inclusive of community, partners, and stakeholders.

2.2.1 Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP)

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will make recommendations to Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP). This WIP will contain strategies and actions which will form a programme of work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management within the whaitua. They may include recommendations for both statutory and non-statutory actions/methods.

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee's WIP will include, but is not limited to:

- an assessment of region wide objectives contained in the draft/proposed or operative regional plan, as they relate to the whaitua
- specific whaitua objectives for water quality and quantity outcomes
- discharge limits, including for sediment, nutrients and other contaminants if appropriate, including setting timeframes and priorities, and management methods, to achieve freshwater and coastal objectives
- identification of tangata whenua values and interests in the harbour and fresh water, and how these might be reflected in the regional plan
- an assessment of, and recommendations to alter, existing water allocation limits, to achieve identified objectives for the whaitua
- programmes or activities that will support or contribute to the achievement of the established objectives for water quality and quantity outcomes, including such tools as environmental accords and post-settlement arrangements; and
- opportunities for the active integration of existing programmes and plans to achieve the objectives and targets for water quality and quantity outcomes.

Once the WIP is completed, Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will present the WIP to Council for approval. Following approval, regulatory methods will be referred to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee for incorporation into the Regional Plan, through a plan change process. Non-regulatory recommendations will also be developed further within Greater Wellington Regional Council and in conjunction with relevant external organisations. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee may also recommend that any non-regulatory proposals within the WIP be considered in

the development of the next Long Term Plan and considered for inclusion in the Porirua Harbour Strategy and Action Plan.

Should the Council not wish to approve any specific elements of the regulatory proposals within the WIP, those specific elements of the regulatory proposals shall be referred back to Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee for further consideration and development.

2.3 Terms of Reference

Greater Wellington Regional Council is responsible for the approval of the Terms of Reference for each whaitua committee established. The Terms of Reference detail the purpose and function, responsibilities, membership, remuneration, and duration of the whaitua committee.

The proposed Terms of Reference for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee can be found in **Attachment 1**. These Terms of Reference have been developed in partnership with Tangata Whenua of Te Awarua o Porirua whaitua and key stakeholders.

2.3.1 Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee membership model

The Terms of Reference contain the membership structure proposed for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee.

The selection of community members to Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will be based on a leadership, rather than representation, model. The community members will need to be local leaders, with the skills to work in a collaborative environment. The community members will not be on Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee to represent a particular organisation, interest group or sector of community. Rather, they will be people who have the respect of, and standing within, the community, and who will be able take part in, and communicate, the whaitua process and progress competently.

2.3.2 Remuneration and capacity

The Terms of Reference include the proposed honorarium plus expenses package for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee Chairperson and Committee members.

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will be required to hold meetings, which will be open to the public, quarterly. In addition to the quarterly meetings there will be workshops, fieldtrips and community event sessions held. It is anticipated that Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will have a total of 10 to 12 sessions (including the quarterly meetings) per year.

2.4 Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee appointment process

In accordance with Greater Wellington Regional Council's policy for the appointment of members to advisory groups, the appointment process for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will follow these steps:

- competencies for the role identified
- advertising for potential candidates

- potential candidates generated
- evaluation of candidates, and shortlist identified, by nominations evaluation group
- shortlisted candidates interviewed by nominations evaluation group
- Committee member nominations presented to Council's meeting in December 2014 for approval.

An indicative timeline of these steps can be seen on the following page.

2.4.1 Nominations evaluation group

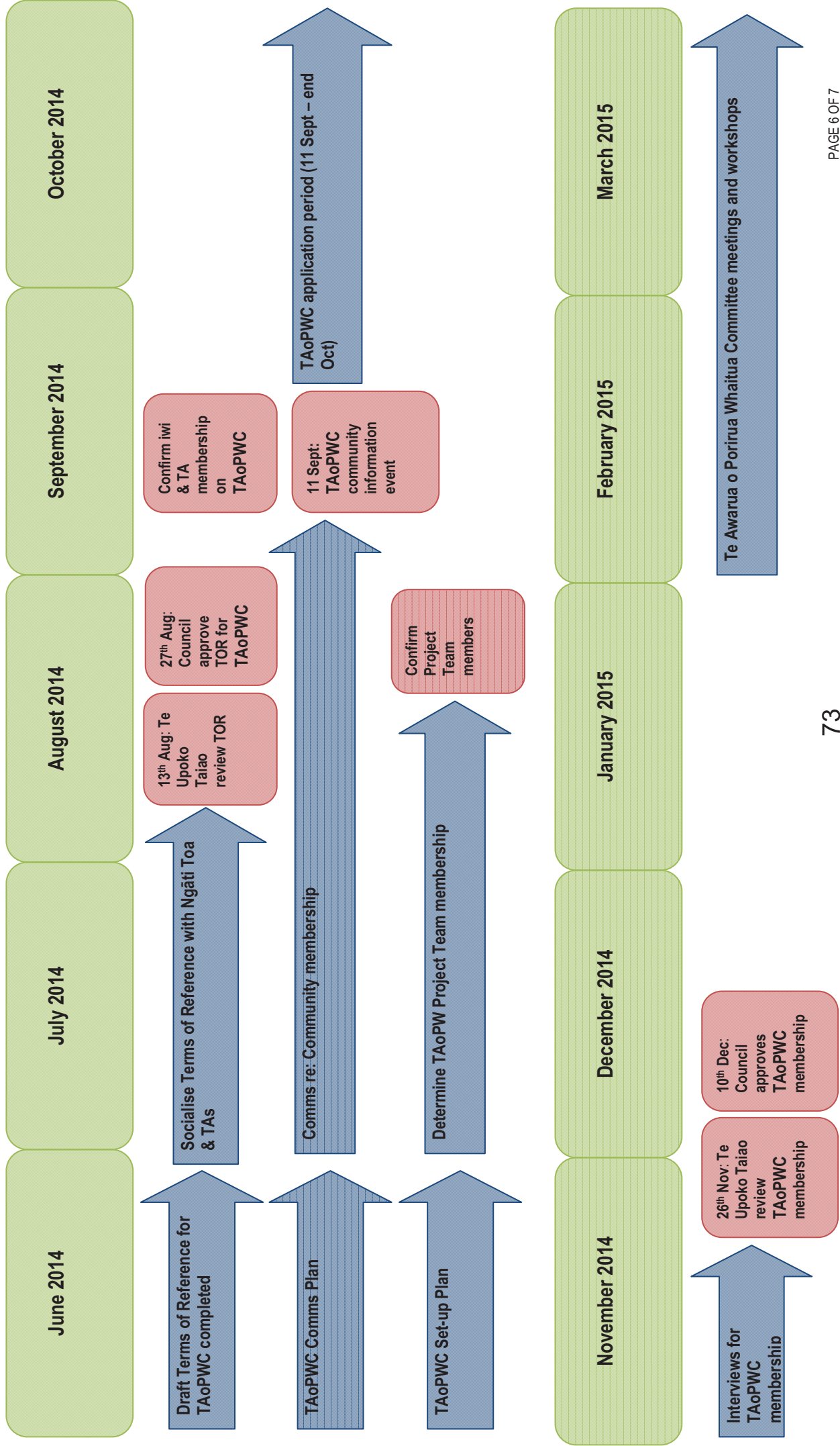
The nominations evaluation group will shortlist, and interview, candidates for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee. The nominations evaluation group will consist of:

- one elected member of Greater Wellington Regional Council
- one appointed member of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee
- the General Manager responsible for the establishment and operation of the whaitua process; and
- an independent person with expertise in community processes.

3. Financial considerations

Funding for the commencement of the whaitua process has been allocated in the Annual Plan 2013/2014. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will be serviced by the Environmental Policy Department.

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee: establishment timeframe



4. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4.1 Significance of the decision

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

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

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the establishment of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee.*
4. *Approves the Terms of Reference for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee as set out in Attachment 1.*
5. *Approves the application process for Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee as set out in section 2.4 of this report.*

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Attachment 1: Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua (catchment) Committee – Terms of Reference