

Report of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee Workshop 24.08.2017

5-9pm, Tawa Community Centre, Tawa

Overview

Workshop/ meeting Attendees **Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee:**
Barbara Donaldson, John McKoy, David Lee, Stu Farrant, Diane Strugnell, Sharli-Jo Solomon, Warrick Lyon, Richard Cook, Larissa Toelupe, Hikitia Ropata

Apologies: John Gibbs, Dale Williams, Jennie Smeaton

Project Team:

Alastair (Project Manager), Shelley, Suze, Jon, Keith, Murray, Hayley, Nicci, Kara, Brent

Facilitator - Michelle Rush

Additional: Mike Grace (GWRC), Kate Pascall (WCC), Megan Oliver (GWRC), Ned Norton, Shanon (GWRC, on camera).

Members of the Public: n/a - session was a workshop

Workshop purposes The purposes of this workshop were to -

1. To think strategically about the challenge of implementation in the TAOPW institutional context, understand TAOPWC's role, and from this
 - a. Identify the strategic approach Committee want to direct GWRC to take to achieve connectivity between different institutions' operations, roles and plans
2. To refresh and update TAOPW understanding of the key issues & contaminants for water quality
3. To understand the implications for TAOPW objective-setting and policy packages of
 - a. the pace of improvement in technical solutions for one problematic activity (stormwater)
 - b. Wellington's current stormwater practice relative to elsewhere in world/NZ
4. Understand the policy framework for managing water takes, the situation for

the Whaitua, and discuss and confirm recommendations for

- a. Water allocation limits
- b. Minimum flows and
- c. Permitted activities.

The purposes were achieved except for part of 3 (implications for objective setting and policy packages) and 4 (confirm recommendations).

Committee Decisions and Actions To Do

- Committee Decisions**
1. TAoPWC confirmed elements of a strategic approach to guide the Project Team in developing recommendations for implementation they believe will foster integration and connection within and between relevant organisations.
 2. TAoPWC approved the Project Team to do “offline” work developing the policy packages as per the above.
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- Actions**
1. Project Team to discuss water allocation questions with Sharli Jo and Hikitia
 2. Project Team to provide information on the following water allocation questions
 - a. Fish species protected by recommended minimum flows
 - b. Measuring and monitoring arrangements that support these
 - c. Sustainability of having water from other whaitua support those living in this whaitua.
 3. Committee to read Water Allocation report ready for decision making at the next meeting.
 4. Committee to send any other water allocation questions to Suze, copying in other committee members.
 5. Reminder – Bus trip Saturday 26 August. Contact Sharli-Jo or Kara if you are attending.

Workshop notes

**Welcome,
karakia,
housekeeping**

Mike Grace gave the karakia and Stu Farrant (Chair) welcomed everyone and outlined the purposes of the workshop.

Stu also welcomed back Shelley Elliott from parental leave who will be resuming her role as Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee Coordinator. Suze Keith, who had been carrying out this role whilst Shelley was on leave, will be staying on at GWRC and continuing work in the whaitua space.

Stu noted that Isabella is currently away and introduced Michelle Rush as the facilitator for the workshop.

Session 1 – Implementation in TAoPW institutional environment

Presentation - Implementation in TAoPW institutional environment

Alastair Smaill gave a presentation on the connections, functions and roles, overlaps and gaps with the current institutional arrangements for freshwater planning in the Porirua Whaitua, and where there were opportunities for the Whaitua to influence.

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Policy-Connections-Te-Awarua-o-Porirua-24-August-2017.pdf>

Following his presentation, Committee members asked the following questions

So Territorial Authorities control land use for everything else? (see Slide 2 + 3)

Everything else. And control doesn't just mean regulation, it is by any tool available to them, such as education, planning, investment

Would a unitary authority model strengthen the functionality?

Yes and no - a single authority can still work in silos and not integrate well. Note that this is beyond the Committee's mandate.

What about City functions?

The murkiness is really on the agreement of who does what. "TAs deal with land use; Regional Councils deal with water" – this is not completely true.

What about water infrastructure?

TAs and Greater Wellington Regional Council own the assets – Wellington Water manages the infrastructure. Regional Council manages flooding. Water infrastructure consents are held by Wellington Water - responsibility sits with them. They are responsible for operating within the terms of their consents.

How can you be responsible for something if you don't have the money for it?

To which the answer was that comes down to your priorities.

Who is responsible for monitoring compliance?

The Regional Council.

What about septic tanks?

Septic tanks controlled by the city council, through Building Act requirements. *Why?* Different areas do it differently - some are more managed than others For example with septic tanks, PCC is hands on and charges \$ for monitoring, WCC are hands off.

In talking to his diagram showing GWRC and TA policy tools, Alastair emphasised that the Whaitua Committee can influence the GWRC line. He posed the question, *How does the Whaitua influence District Plan?* E.g. Everyone is doing education on water - is it money well spent currently? Are the priorities where you'd want to see them? Currently there is no coordination across organisations.

Porirua Harbour Strategy is trying to address some of the cross-agency communication fails.

The Harbour Strategy is really clear on where they want to go and is well aligned, and well-integrated, however the implementation section is largely non-regulatory. The Whitua Committee needs to be thinking more broadly and make a step-change.

What can the Whitua Committee do in this space?

Make recommendations in the space of education and change programmes; as well as recommendations in the regional plan space. There are big opportunities in this space. Unfortunately the Whitua cannot make direct DP recommendations as this is outside its scope.

However the Whitua Committee could make recommendations to GW to push them along in the area of integration of implementation.

**Workshop -
Implementation
in TAoPW
institutional
environment**

Whitua Committee members discussed the presentation, and workshopped the following questions⁷

a) Thinking of an organisation you are familiar with⁷

- Discuss a time when a process or project between that organisation and at least one other worked well. What was it that helped it work well?
- Discuss a time when a process or project between that organisation and at least one other didn't work. What was missing?

From this discussion, a set of elements that enable organisations to work well together were identified.

b) Thinking of the policy approaches the Whitua Committee has open to it, and your intentions to foster integrated planning and integrated delivery, what policy approaches will enable organisations to fully integrate freshwater management and achieve our water management objectives?

**Elements that
enable
organisations to
work well
together**

Whitua Committee members identified the following elements as **enabling organisations to work together effectively**:

- Shared vision and value proposition
- Shared set of common values
- People get together early. Establish a clear⁷
 - Purpose
 - Role definition
 - Outcome
- Right people are involved at the start

- Taking responsibility
- Maintaining shared intent and genuine intent
- Following through

- Trust
- Open and Transparent communication
- Two-way communication
- Flexibility, room for innovation and adaptability and ability to change tack
- Institutional support mechanisms throughout levels
- Transitions (staff turnover) are well managed

When things didn't go well...

- Key stakeholders left out because of the way stakeholders were mapped
- Finger pointing rather than taking responsibility
- Vision and values not embedded in the organisation.

Policy approaches that will enable organisations to fully integrate freshwater management and achieve water management objectives

- Planners / technicians work as one body (as per the model of South East Queensland).
- Develop policy as a 'One Plan.'
- Plan with line of sight from objectives right through to outcomes for all people involved.
- Overall intent is signed off by all bodies.
- Implementation plan is supported by case studies and templates across the organisations.
- Key Performance Indicators for the project. These are shared across organisations for shared delivery.
- Each organisation resources continuity (succession planning) and ensures more than one person is involved.
- Each organisation resources internal education and capacity building.

Session 2 - State of our Water – an update

Presentation – State of our Water

Megan Oliver presented an update on the state of Porirua's water ways based on the latest State of Environment monitoring undertaken by GWRC.

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Policy-Connections-Te-Awarua-o-Porirua-24-August-2017.pdf>

Following her presentation, Committee members asked the following questions

Are the monitoring results benchmarked against similar waterbodies? Is this happening everywhere?

There is a national effort to monitor other estuaries across NZ. GWRC try to standardise monitoring so we can compare apples with apples.

Are other areas seeing similar trends?

Yes, for sometimes differing reasons. Other parts of NZ are doing more and seeing results. Sediment is a national issue. Conversations are being had about a national direction to improve this.

We (GW region) are probably behind other cosmopolitan areas regarding urban sediment inputs.

What impact is the rock wall falling into the harbour (and tree debris etc)?
It is not really significant; that area isn't too bad.

**Workshop –
State of our
Water**

Time constraints meant that the workshop discussion to follow this presentation didn't happen. Its purpose had been to identify

- The implications for the Committee's development of water management objectives; and
 - What the Whaitua Committee must ensure is focused upon in establishing these objectives.
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Session 3 – Technological solutions for stormwater management

**Presentation –
Technological
solutions for
stormwater
management**

Stu Farrant gave a presentation on technological solutions being implemented for stormwater management in other parts of NZ and the world.

Following his presentation, Committee members asked the following questions

Is there a mindset difference between NZ and Australia?

Yes, initially there were reservations amongst some, but the end result is that developments with water sensitive design achieve higher prices. Australia sees water as a more valuable asset than we do, a legacy of water scarcity.

NZ does value water, by valuing the environment, but we aren't accustomed to 'paying' for it.

Pricing of water drives the technology and economic advances.

Are these approaches likely to be taken up in NZ?

New Zealanders don't know or understand these alternative ways of doing things. Funding needs to invest initially in R&D, then pilot studies, then in achieving broader buy in.

**Workshop –
Technological
solutions for
stormwater
management**

Time constraints meant that the workshop discussion to follow this presentation didn't happen. Its purpose had been to identify

- The policy tools that would enable and support the uptake of these sorts of innovations by infrastructure providers, businesses and developers; and
 - How the(se) mechanism(s) would operate in practice.
 - The policy approaches Whaitua members wished the project team do further work on in relation to this.
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Session 4 – Water takes/Allocation

**Presentation –
Water takes and
allocation**

Murray McLea gave a presentation with recommendations for how the Waitua Committee might like to approach the matter of water takes and allocation.

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/REPORT-Water-Allocation-in-Te-Awarua-o-Porirua-Whaitua-August-2017.pdf>

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/PRESENTATION-Water-Allocation-24.08.2017.pdf>

Following his presentation, Committee members asked the following questions

How are breaches of the takes picked up? Does Transmission Gully get measured?

Yes, some older consents may not be, but as they are renewed, measuring requirements may be added.

How quickly is the low flow picked up and takes cut off?

There is continuous flow monitoring on some streams in the catchment. Decreases in flow get picked up and can be seen online on the GWRC website 'live'. GWRC is responsible for picking up offenders if they continue to take once a cease take has been announced.

What happens if demand increases in the future?

The regime will help to future proof for a likely increased demand - these limits will still allow for new takes but only if water is available within the limits. In this way they will still achieve the water outcomes we're aiming for.

Concerns over uncertainty of numbers of house, unsure of what type of properties etc. How do we have confidence in the limits?

There's only a set amount of water. The limits are the limits.

Where are the limits measured?

Every stream needs to have actual numbers associated with them in the Plan. Murray's example is just one of many, and aimed to show you what is in place for all of the water bodies.

The Minimum flow will still support the environment, no more takes once low flow met.

How long can a waterway sustain itself at minimum flow?

Quite a long time, minimum flows are conservative. And permitted takes are already taken into account when setting limits.

Are we certain that when individual demands increase there is the flexibility for this?

Yes, as long as water is available. Further takes are prohibited if low flow is reached- you can't even apply.

The recommendations addressing permitted activities were not presented.

- Minimum flows and allocation limits discussion** Following the presentation, Whaitua Committee members began to work through the recommendations being made. It became apparent that a number of members were not ready to make a decision.
- When asked what information committee members needed to be able to reach a decision on Murray's recommendations, the following matters were identified
 - Need time to digest it
 - Request for further information and an opportunity to discuss their questions with the Project Team
 - Commentary on measuring and monitoring needs to be included on any recommendations made - like to see some examples
 - Wish to understand what it means for mahinga Kai
 - Wish to understand the potential impacts from other Whaitua Committees' decisions on water security.
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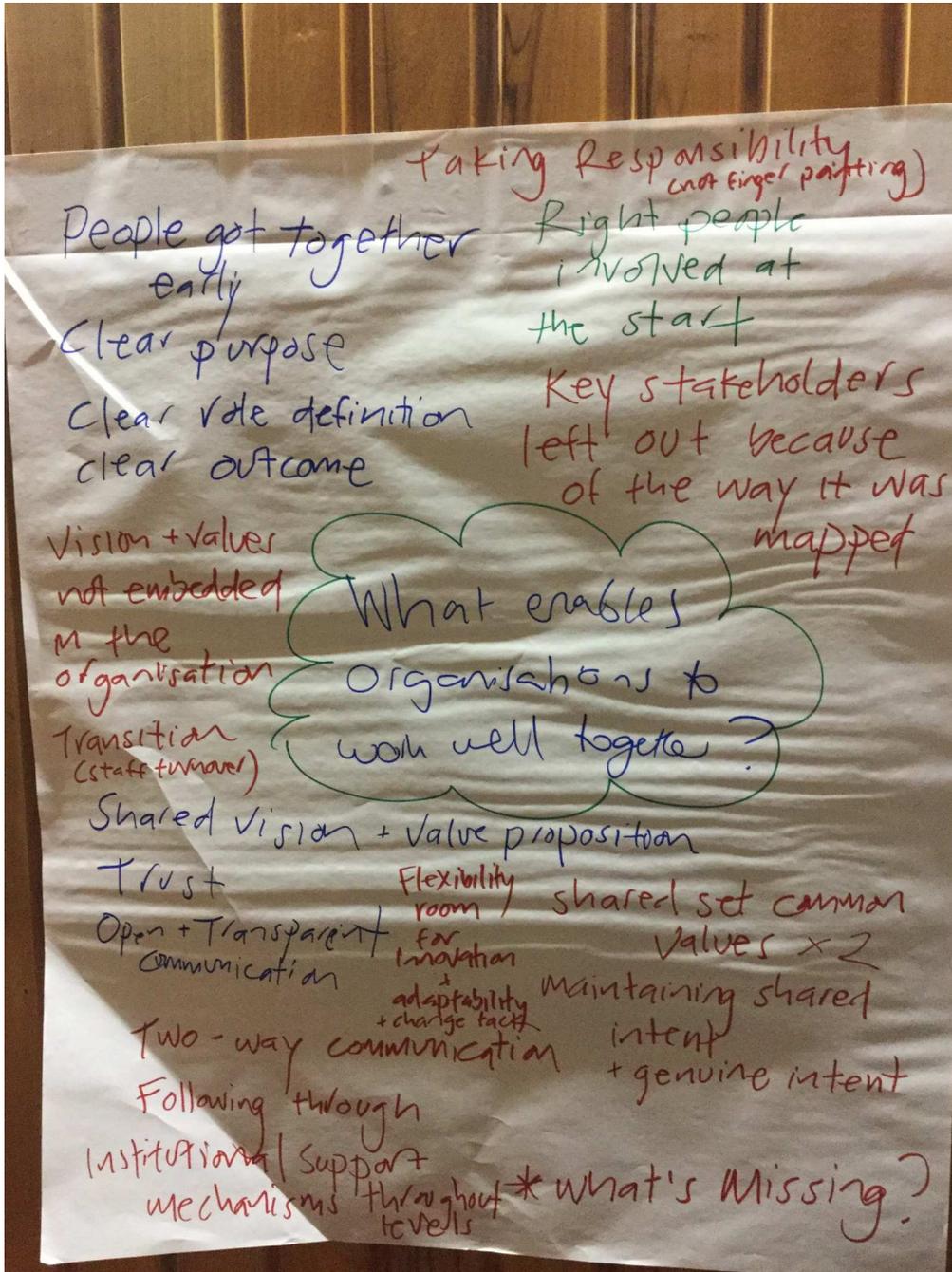
Session 6 – Any other business

- Other business**
- Tech Team Report Back to be held until next meeting
 - Ngāti Toa bus trip Saturday 26 August – all welcome – Invitations have been issued to iwi and TA/GW/WWL. Let Sharli-Jo and Kara know if you are coming.
 - Committee intentions for Project Team to use in developing policy packages – this has been tabled.
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The workshop closed at 9:05pm. The next workshop of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is **Thursday 14 September 5 – 9pm at Aotea Lodge.**

ENDS

Appendix One: Flipchart Photos



Planners/
technicians
work as one
body (as per
S.E. Queensland)

*KPIs
for the
project

Overall intent
signed off by
all bodies

Implementation plan;
case study templates
across organisations

Develop as
a one plan
Tangible
Keep vision
which is recognised
by the community

What policy approaches
will enable organisations
to fully integrate fresh water
management and achieve
our WRM objectives?

Plan with line of
sight from outcome
through to objective
for all people involved

Organisation
resources continuity
(succession planning)
+ more than one
person

+ internal education
* shared across orgⁿ
for shared delivery

+ Capacity building
to within each
organisation