

MEETING PAPER

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Co-chairs

DATE 15 November for 25 November 2019 Committee Meeting 9

TOPIC November Co-chairs update

General progress

For the next two months we shift our focus beyond the urban setting and out to the rural surrounds of our Whaitua. In doing so, we also shift our focus from the Hutt and Harbour catchments to our Whaitua's three other large catchments – Makara/Ohariu, Wainuiomata and Orongorongo. We will be hearing about the state of water in our various rural areas and discussing the practices and tools that shape our interactions with it. In November we focus on farming and in December we focus on plantation forestry, GW parks, and lifestyle blocks – amongst other topics. These sessions will prompt us to apply our thinking and kawa in a quite different operating environment to the urban context that we've covered to date.

A summary of our year's work is currently being developed by Catherine Knight. This report will not only serve us as a useful reference document in the New Year but will also help our new Committee members get up to speed. The report will also act as a public summary of what information the Committee has absorbed over the past year. Catherine has been meeting with a sample of the Committee members and Project Team to seek their input while developing the report.

We will soon be wrapping up our first year as a Committee and hopefully getting to enjoy the waters of our Whaitua over summer! To celebrate the year and our work together, we will have a bbq lunch at our December meeting and nibbles and drinks at the end. Please make sure that we all stay to talk with our colleagues over a beer, wine or lemonade - as we take time to slow down after a year of rapid information downloads.

Updates

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place mid-October to mid-November:

Subgroups

- The Science subgroup held its second meeting on 24 October. The group discussed various parts of the science programme, including the expert panel, the science library and the use of "scenarios" as one component of the science input. The group is looking to confirm a Committee member to act as a "lead" for the group.

- The Comms & Engagement subgroup met on 7 November and discussed the need for good Committee-led engagement over coming months and targeted engagement (including rural) in the longer-term. Project team resourcing for this subgroup is currently being provided by Phill and Emily while further resourcing is being arranged by GWRC.
- The Policy subgroup did not meet this past month but is scheduled to do so on 29 November.

Co-chairs, Committee Members and Project Team

- The Co-chairs continue to meet together monthly, plus fortnightly with Tim and Phill to check in on progress and shape the next month's agenda.
- Local body elections have been held and new/returning councillors elected. However, councillor representation on our Committee will only be confirmed just prior to our Committee meeting.
- Sadly, we have to farewell Peter Gilberd from the Committee but we thank Peter for his valuable contribution over the past year. Louise has passed on a farewell and thanks on behalf of the co-chairs.
- Recruitment for mana whenua representatives on both the Committee and Project Team are progressing positively.

External Engagements

- Both co-chairs were due to speak to mayors and councillors at the "Zone 4" meeting in early November but that meeting was postponed to early next year.
- The co-chairs are planning to present our Committee's work to the new GWRC councillors on 12 December.
- Louise has been in touch with Federated Farmers to briefly introduce our Whaitua process and make a connection for future engagement.
- GWRC had a Whaitua stand at the Fonterra "Open Gates" day in Featherston on 10 November which was used to inform and engage members of the public, before being rained off!
- The co-chairs were disappointed to have missed the Committee's October field trip but have both sought to fill the knowledge gap either through attending an earlier field trip with Stu Farrant or through drawing on previous experience working in this area.