

MEETING NOTES

SUBJECT	Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee workshop notes
WHEN	Friday 30 April 2021, 9am-5pm
WHERE	NZ Deerstalkers Association (3 Collina Terrace, Thorndon)
ATTENDEES	Sam, Louise, Anya, Zoe, Roger, Pete, Pat, Sean, Wayne (until 12pm), Ros (until 12pm)
APOLOGIES	Tui, Jonny, Naomi, Hikitia, Kara, Gabriel
PROJECT TEAM	Tim, Phill, Emily O., Kat, Matt, Mark, Emily T., Brent, Dave, Mike, James, John, Angela

30 April workshop notes – urban recommendations

KEY

D = decision.

A = action.

PT = project team.

R = idea for drafting a recommendation.

Meeting opening

Workshop opened with a karakia.

Introduction to the workshop:

- Workshop focussed on continuing through the urban recommendations.
- Need for efficiency with 28 recommendations to discuss on rainwater tanks, stream form and function, water sensitive urban design (WSUD), community connection and cross-cutting themes if time allows.
- Recommendations from the WCC Mayoral Taskforce report are referenced for the Committee to bring its own ownership.
- Toxic algae and flood management will be picked up at a future workshop.
- Previous workshop notes were approved with no changes.

Engagement updates:

- Houghton Valley engagement event on 14 April.
 - Zoe circulate notes from the event including a link to the meeting recording.
 - The Houghton Valley stream has a landfill sitting on top and contaminants run down an old pipe into the marine reserve. The community created a design to lift the stream and restore

wetlands to the valley. They made a submission to WCC during the last LTP 3 years ago but did not receive a response.

- The community group has asked how the Whaitua Committee can help. It may be worth supporting the community's vision and including a strong statement in the WIP.
- Sean met with the group to get up to speed and is keen to champion their efforts.
- Need further discussion on prioritisation as there are other catchments with similar issues. The Whaitua Committee needs to consider equity, mana whenua values and feasibility. Do we prioritise where the quality is worst or go where there's momentum?
- Alternatively, projects where the community has already developed solutions may be more likely to receive Council funding and support.
- Community groups have limited time and resources. They need help navigating the process to receive funding and an advocate within Council to support them – to be addressed in the community focused recommendations.
- Zoom meeting arranged with Mauri Tūhono – the Biodiversity Committee on Thursday 6 May.
 - Opportunity to discuss how the work of both Committee's is progressing, themes and high level recommendations, and how to strengthen both pieces of work.

Review of current actions:

- Project team working on contracting a content writer to write narrative sections of the WIP in plain English.
- Do Committee members want additional time to revisit recommendations discussed at earlier workshops? Co-chairs and PT to discuss options to review revised recommendations.
- Councils have committed to their budgets for the next 3 years in their LTPs. Recommendations within this timeframe will be more difficult to achieve, although there may be other paths to funding.
- There is an industry shortfall of skilled people to make infrastructure upgrades. Need for discussion on a recommendation to central government about workforce development as a cross-cutting theme.

A: PT to note Committee to return to discussion on recommendations to central government in tertiary employment and workforce development space.

[Urban recommendations](#)

Narrative for Recommendations 27-29 – rainwater tanks

- Narrative needs to be more positive and state the opportunities. Include commercial use in addition to household.
- Not agreed whether rainwater tanks effectively reduce demand on the public supply. There is a greater need for water when there is the least available during summer. Stormwater attenuation likely to be the main benefit.
- Need education process to help people use the water stored in their tanks effectively.
- Watering gardens is the first restriction in a water shortage. Average household use for gardens in summer is 20%.
- Rainwater tanks in Kāpiti are used for toilet flushing and gardens. Agreed to support Kāpiti's approach and to use water for non-potable purposes.
- Recognised the multiple purposes that rainwater tanks can serve, including civil defence, stormwater attenuation, greywater.

D: Rainwater tanks narrative to be rewritten with more positive framing. Include opportunity to increase community connection to water, reduce demand (even if it's a smaller benefit), slow runoff on impervious surfaces and for civil defence purposes. Water from tanks to be used for non-potable purposes.

D: Add commentary about the outcomes to be achieved through the use of tanks and options for achieving them.

Recommendation 27

- Challenge for councils to require people to use rainwater tanks, need for education and encouragement.
- Discomfort expressed but discussed and agreed need to 'require' if we want to drive change, but could be flexible on the type/size of tank depending on the type of development. Practical considerations for storage space in high density housing.
- Need to demonstrate the cost-benefit of using rainwater tanks. See tangible savings in cost of water delivery rather than looking only at the upfront costs to install tanks.
- Include commercial in addition to residential developments. Should be a criteria for green and brownfield developments.

D: Change wording to 'TAs require the use of rainwater tanks or alternatives with equivalent outcomes on new residential and commercial developments for non-potable uses by 2025.'

Recommendation 28

- Discussion about whether to include rates based payment. 'Incentivise' could include funding or other mechanisms.

D: Change 'encouraged' to 'incentivised' and remove second sentence.

Recommendation 29

- Not needed as its own recommendation but can be merged with 28.

D: Remove 29 as its own recommendation. Add prioritisation of retrofitting areas that are flood prone with rainwater tanks in recommendation 28.

Recommendation 30

- Bring WSUD to the front of the recommendation to make it clearer.
- Councils need to work with mana whenua and community partners to review planning documents on developing in a way that honours natural waterways.

D: Rewrite recommendation to state that natural systems have been filled in or buried by built infrastructure and require new developments to preserve and enhance these systems. Needs to be less wordy and easier to understand.

D: Include mana whenua and community as partners with Councils in all recommendations where applicable.

D: Simplify 'review and edit policy statements, regional and district plans' to 'amend relevant planning documents.'

Recommendation 31

- ‘Leaving room for the river’ is a term the Committee is using but needs explanation for a wider audience.
- Consider how to involve catchment community groups to restore waterways and habitats.

D: Need to be clear that ‘leaving room for the river’ needs to happen at the planning stage rather than the flood management stage. Explain what this phrase means to the Committee and pick up in discussion about other flood management recommendations.

Recommendation 32, 33 and 36 – fish passage

- 2025 is an ambitious timeline for identifying fish passage barriers on private land as it’s difficult to organise access. Adjust to 2030 for private land.
- Remediation could include ropes, rocks and other mechanisms that support fish passage. Also revegetation, reducing weed species, protecting banks, reducing sedimentation, providing shading, etc.
- Physical barriers are more obvious but there can also be chemical barriers.
- There are various methods to identify spatial areas where there might be potential barriers but ground truthing them is more challenging. In Porirua, a team of students were able to work across the catchment in a summer.
- Unsure of timeline it may take to restore fish passage once identified. May prioritise areas that have valued threatened species.
- Also need to consider costs and feasibility. Small barriers are easier to restore but Ngauranga gorge has 10 perch culverts with infrastructure sitting on top that would cost millions to restore.
- Some might be possible to restore when infrastructure is being renewed.
- Part of community connection involves telling the stories of streams, including what species used to be there. It would be useful to provide data about the current state of species in streams.
- Mahinga kai as defined in the PNRP and NPS-FM includes the species, places and activity.
- The attribute in the NPS-FM denotes whether indigenous fish are present or absent but does not tell you about the abundance of fish or habitat at monitoring sites. Discuss further in target attribute setting workshop.

D: Amend recommendation 32 to identify fish passage barriers on public land by 2025 and 2030 for private land.

D: Add to recommendation 36 prioritising remediation of catchments that are highly valued for mahinga kai. Add GW to publicly report on identifying and remediation progress.

A: PT to seek advice on feasible timeline for restoring fish passage, proposing within 10 years of barriers being identified. Need more information on options to ensure compliance.

D: Recognise range of options for restoring fish passage. Include collaboration with mana whenua and community catchment groups.

D: Recommendation 36 to become 32b.

D: Recommendation 33 – Have separate timeframes to identify and restore spawning habitats. Support 2025 for identification. Restoration timing will be considered through FMU and target attribute state work.

Recommendation 34 and 35 – Water Sensitive Urban Design

- Discussion about whether it's useful to include examples of WSUD in recommendation. Doesn't matter what type of WSUD as long as it achieves outcomes, although it could be helpful to include ideas even if they are not exclusive of other potential options.
- No need to distinguish greenfield developments as WSUD should apply to brownfield and all urban development.
- An holistic, catchment management approach is important, developed with mana whenua and community groups.
- Wellington Water's global stormwater consents are developed on a catchment basis. Zoom session to be arranged with the stormwater consent team.
- Seattle could be a good case study example of WSUD to include in the WIP, provide inspiration of good outcomes for people and the environment.

D: Clarified the correct acronym to use throughout the WIP is WSUD.

D: Simplify 'regional policy statements, plans and district plans' to 'planning documents.'

D: Recommendations need to be clearly framed in the context of a catchment management plan and approach. Bring this wording to the front of the recommendation.

A: PT to redraft recommendation 34 for Committee to revisit.

A: Include good examples of WSUD and fish passage as case studies in the WIP to show support for community groups.

A: PT to follow up with Wellington Water on global stormwater consent and requirements for developers to comply with.

A: Add reference/link to Mayoral Taskforce recommendations.

Recommendation 37

- Flood protection thinking in terms of pipes rather than streams. Need to change connection to tributaries and make the recommendation about more than just the Te Awa Kairangi main stem.
- Enhancing the natural character is a broad statement and difficult to measure. Te Awa Kairangi is channelized and we need to be clear about what we're trying to achieve.
- Recommendation came from the flood management small group discussions and should be picked up in the FMU discussion on Te Awa Kairangi.
- Riverlink is one section of the river but need to apply similar principles to other parts of the awa. Co-design with nature, flood management and communities should not just be for Te Awa Kairangi but other waterbodies as well.
- Different treatments may be appropriate in different areas, e.g., Lower Hutt's focus is on flood management. We need to work within existing constraints.
- How does flood management fit within Te Mana o te Wai and the primary purpose of water's inherent ecological value?
- In Hutt River Floodplain management plan intercept survey, Te Awa Kairangi is seen by the public as a travel corridor. Some people are in favour of less shade to feel safe. Community values include a balance of flood protection, nature and recreation.
- Pick up discussion when the Committee gets to the 'Living with the awa' section.

A: Continue discussion on recommendations related to Te Awa Kairangi in place-based discussion.

R: Recommendation about co-design objectives between nature, flood management and catchment communities to be included in section with flood management recommendations.

A: PT to circulate the [Hutt River Floodplain management plan intercept survey report](#), which includes community values.

Recommendation 38

- Purpose of the recommendation is unclear, themes could be included in the narrative or other sections.
- Additional recommendation to identify sites in TA boundaries to lift water to the surface or daylight streams in collaboration with communities to increase connection.

D: Remove this recommendation and include components in other recommendations.

R: Add a recommendation about identifying opportunities for daylighting.

Recommendation 39, 40 and 49 – inflow and infiltration

- Similar to recommendations about fixing cross-connections. If checking pipes on private properties, can the timeframes be aligned to check for inflow and infiltration issues at the same time?
- Checking for cross-connections and infiltration simultaneously substantially changes the workload as infiltration testing is much more intensive.
- Inflow is stormwater running off roofs and connected to wastewater pipes whereas infiltration is leakage from groundwater into stormwater or wastewater pipes. Cross-connections are wastewater connections to stormwater pipes.
- Cross-connections and inflow are relatively easy to fix as the issues are mostly above ground. Infiltration can require digging up pipes beneath trees or infrastructure and can be very costly.
- Wellington Water would prefer to deal with wastewater connections to stormwater first as untreated sewage goes into the environment every day, even in dry conditions. Wet weather overflows are not good either but they are more diluted than dry weather occurrences.
- Does every household need to be tested? If monitoring shows there is no contamination, do they still need to be tested? It would take a lot of roving crews to visit all 120,000 properties across the whaitua.
- Prioritisation to be addressed when the Committee has a timeline of all the recommendations to assess what we want to achieve in the short, medium and long term, understanding that not all recommendations will be completed by 2030.
- Committee not concerned with timing of recommendations at this stage. Dates to be highlighted to revisit during prioritisation discussion.
- Need general principles for prioritisation that officials can use for implementing recommendations.
- Recommendations to identify and repair cross-connections and inflow issues to be combined with same timeframes.
- Committee to take guidance from advisors about how long may be needed to identify and repair infiltration issues in separate recommendation.
- The Houghton Valley community group said they don't mind spending money on fixing their private pipes but they want to see that effort is going into fixing public pipes as well.
- Once pipes have been assessed, the condition should go on the LIM report.

D: Cross-connections and inflow recommendations to be merged together. Use wording from earlier recommendations on cross-connections – issues identified by 2030 and repaired within 2 years.

R: Infiltration to have a separate recommendation with a longer timeframe, to be confirmed when discussing overall timeline and prioritisation, and integrate with wastewater exfiltration recommendation.

A: PT to investigate who is responsible for paying to fix pipes that are in shared ownership but are not owned by councils or private landowners.

Recommendation 41 – WOF

- Need to be more specific about what's included in the WOF. Purpose to add an inspection of pipes to the LIM building report of properties at point of sale to help prospective buyers know what needs replacing.
- Information to help empower landowners' decision-making by giving visibility of risks.
- Need potential avenues of action if the WOF is failed and the owner refuses to fix their pipes.
- Challenge of inspecting pipes without digging, may be limited to what's visible above ground.
- Important recommendation to include in the top 10.

D: Include three waters in wording. Note to give this recommendation priority.

Recommendation 42

- GW needs to be included to work on its own public spaces since they manage parks and golf courses as well. Need transparency and reporting on progress over time. GW should be modelling best practices.
- Include community groups as well.

D: Move recommendation to section on contaminants.

D: Apply to all public green spaces, including regional parks, golf courses, etc.

Recommendation 43 – Mayoral Taskforce report

- Recommendation is about having a benchmark of data on stormwater contaminants such as zinc and copper that can be applied to the assessment of new council projects.
- GW has stormwater monitoring data at sites across the whitua that measure the quality of water in pipes and impacts on the receiving environment.
- Discussion about offsetting and whether it would allow more contaminants to enter the water as long as they are offset. There should be other practices and mitigations in place before offsetting.
- Difficult to read the Mayoral Taskforce recommendations out of order and without context.
- It seems there is already an assessment tool and consent process in place to deal with stormwater effects.
- Need to discuss with Wellington Water and WCC advisors about how it could be applied across the whitua. Further thinking around stormwater neutrality and a WSUD guide.

D: PT to develop recommendation for further discussion around stormwater contaminants and neutrality, or developing a WSUD guide for councils.

Recommendation 44 – Mayoral Taskforce report

- Recommendation is about embedding WSUD in district plan requirements and consenting and requiring a water impact assessment for developments.

D: Move recommendation to '35b'. Change wording from 'all new land development consents' to 'all development consents.'

Recommendation 45 – Mayoral Taskforce report

- Recommendation is about Wellington Water working with developers on WSUD requirements so they understand ongoing maintenance needs and ownership.
- It's a risk management approach to maintain green infrastructure.
- Support for all property development rather than just private. All assets should be maintained to a high standard.

D: Remove word 'private' and phrase 'and ensure that these assets meet design and performance requirements when being vested to Council ownership.' Spell out acronym 'GI' as 'green infrastructure.'

Recommendation 46 – Mayoral Taskforce report

- Move to contaminants section of the WIP.
- Need to consider who is going to monitor and enforce if it becomes a bylaw. Is a bylaw the right mechanism or should it be education?
- There are more contaminants than zinc and copper from roofs, also copper brake pads as addressed in another recommendation, washing paint brushes and cars, etc. Include these options for councils to consider.
- Want to help the public become aware that rooves, drains and pipes are all part of the urban stormwater system.

D: Replace 'TAs to consider the development' with 'TAs to develop.' Replace 'help manage the input' with 'reduce the input.'

R: List to include: copper and zinc from rooves, washing paint brushes or cars, and treating stormwater contaminants from carparks.

Recommendation 47 – Mayoral Taskforce report

- Some concern about using roads to facilitate movement of water as we don't want to cut people off from being able to get home in a storm event. Need to think how it would work in practice.
- Committee has discussed using green spaces and parks for flooding.

D: Move to section with other WSUD recommendations.

Recommendation 48 – Mayoral Taskforce report

- Recommendation about the need to include costs of ongoing asset maintenance rather than reallocating budget to other projects. Important to include alongside recommendation 45.

D: Move recommendation to '45a.'

Meeting closing

Community connection:

- Some points from the Houghton Valley event notes could be turned into community recommendations.
- Need to include partnership and connection with mana whenua, and support for community initiatives.
- Te Kāhui Taiao recommendations will include catchment plan aspect.
- Would like to see low cost E.coli monitoring and support for data management and transparency.

- Identity of waterbody elevated through signage and Te Reo names, noting ownership and protection of sites of significance for mana whenua.
- Include the role of citizen science and information about the actions underway so that community members can understand where to prioritise their efforts.
- Water quantity will be discussed at the next workshop and papers will sit outside of the Draft WIP. Te Mana o te Wai framework to be provided by Te Kāhui Taiao.

Anya closed with a karakia.

A: PT to arrange an opportunity for a small group of Committee members to review the rural recommendations in the WIP before they go to the full Committee for discussion.

A: PT to redraft 'Community Connection' recommendations based on Committee comments and discussion.

A: PT to incorporate changes discussed by the Committee and provide a clean version with changes tracked.

D: 31 May workshop date to be shifted to 26 May.

A: PT to provide updated meeting schedule with remaining topics to be covered.