

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee
FROM Co-Chairs
DATE 15 July 2019 for 22 July 2019 Committee Meeting 6
TOPIC Meeting 6 Co-Chairs Report

General progress

The Committee has made good progress to date with our Committee “Establishment” work largely completed and two subgroups well underway. Meeting six is where we clearly shift our focus from “Establishment” to “Understanding the Whaitua”. Over the second half of this year, we will be exploring the state of our whaitua along with the current activity, organisations, issues and values that underpin it. At the same time, we will continue our public engagement and policy development work. Today we start understanding our whaitua by looking at the Hutt Valley, in particular the Te Awakairanga/ Hutt River Catchment. We will focus on the Hutt Valley again (as well as Wainuiomata) in Meeting Eight.

Over the past month we have started to translate our foundational framework into our more operational work. This framework includes our well-established kawa and the confirmation of our tuapapa. Our Committee has agreed on the concept of a 100-year vision for our whaitua (i.e. in addition to the shorter-term requirements of the NPSFM) and are currently seeking public input to help us build this vision. Our foundational framework must continuously be weaved into our discussions over the next year and a half. Ra Smith acknowledged that our Committee is currently in a good position, given the work carried out to date.

As we now delve into the detail of the topics, locations and communities within our whaitua, we encourage Committee members to play an active role in sharing their knowledge and experience with the Committee. We look forward to individual Committee members facilitating and informing field trips outside of usual Committee meetings. We also encourage Committee members to review the topics and locations planned for our upcoming Committee meetings (as noted in our Work Plan) and consider where you can provide contextual input as local or well-experienced voices from the community. Lastly, and importantly, we encourage Committee members to start engaging their own networks about the work of the Whaitua TWT Committee.

The following sections provide a summary of key activities that took place late June to late July:

Subgroups

- The Policy subgroup met on 17 June and further developed the Committee’s policy framework, problem definition, Venn diagram and timeline. An important piece of work was a systems map which is being tested with the Committee today.

- The Comms & Engagement subgroup met on 3 July where they refined our stakeholder register and confirmed some key tools to inform the Committee's comms and engagement work. These tools have subsequently been refined and made live – including a values survey as requested by the Committee in Meeting Five.
- One further subgroup is still to be formed – the science/technical subgroup.
- Each subgroup will now have a 30-minute session with the full Committee as a standing item on each Committee meeting agenda. These sessions provide an opportunity to give a report back on work, test ideas/outputs and seek the Committee guidance for their next steps.
- A draft ToR Template has been developed and provided for Subgroups to amend and change as required – noting the need to ensure alignment with the Foundational Framework and the ultimate decision making responsibility of the full Committee

Co-chairs, Committee and Project Team

- The Co-chairs continue together meet monthly plus with Tim and Phil fortnightly to check in on progress and shape the next month's agenda.
- The Co-chairs are scheduled to speak to GW's Environment Committee on 7 August.
- Committee members can either talk to the Project Team individually or use the Co-Chairs to feed thoughts/concerns/etc to the Project Team.
- At Meeting Five, Morrie Love stepped down from the TWT Committee owing to his retirement. We acknowledge the valuable contribution that Morrie has made over the past six months and the taonga that he has left us in his Cultural Values Report (currently draft). Taranaki Whānui is currently undertaking a process to fill Morrie's position.
- We also said farewell to Shane Parata from the Project Team and we thank him for his support to date.

External Engagements

- The launch of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP (19 June) at Takapūwāhia Marae was attended by the Co-chairs along with several of our Committee members and Project Team. It was a significant occasion that represented a huge amount of work and the passing of the baton - for implementation of the WIP. It was a reminder of where our Committee, and our Whaitua, will be positioned in less than two years' time!
- Ahi Kā event (21 June) – the GW stand received a good level of public interest and Jon/Phill engaged with a number of people to gauge their perspectives on Whaitua TWT. A media write-up from the event included a quote by Kara as Co-chair.
- Friends of Belmont Regional Park (9 July) – Louise briefly spoke about the context and scope of the Whaitua TWT Committee and our work. At the meeting, Mayor Ray Wallace voiced his strong support for the Committee's work.