

Report 16.385
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Committee Council
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Report to Council on Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, 11 August 2016

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting of 11 August 2016.

2. Public participation

There was no public participation.

3. Reports

3.1 Update from Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

The Committee received oral reports from Alastair Smail, Project Manager, Whaitua and Esther Dijkstra, Deputy Chair, Ruamahanga Whaitua Committee.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has completed one round of community engagement and have also planned and nearly completed a second round of engagement. They have used a variety of methods to engage with the community, such as social media, an information brochure and face-to-face meetings. The current round of engagement has focused on three questions:

- What's the fairest way of restricting water use during the summer?
- What do we need to do to make our rivers swimmable and how long should it take to get there?
- How should we manage rivers to improve natural character while safeguarding community assets, income and households?

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is on-track to complete their work in February 2017.

3.2 Update from Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee

The Committee received an oral report from Stu Farrant, Chair, Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee.

The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is preparing for its first round of community engagement in the spring/summer. Working groups have been established and are meeting every two weeks. The working groups are:

- Storm water/waste water
- Urban development
- Rural issues
- Collaborative modelling

The next step for Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is developing scenarios, these should be agreed by the end of the year.

3.3 Supporting landowners' mahi waiora project

The Committee received an oral report from Joshua McLennan-Deans, Senior Biodiversity Advisor.

The Mahi Waiora project has been established to assist landowners to comply with new rules about protecting wetlands and waterways on their properties and to promote general good management practice relating to new regulations in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan. The new rules require livestock to be excluded from significant natural wetlands and Category 1 and 2 surface water bodies – that is waterways with significant mana whenua, ecological and community values.

Training sessions will be held for GWRC staff starting in October with further training planned for early 2017. Field-days for landowners will happen in late 2016 or early 2017 with information publications available from October.

3.4 Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework and Method 2

Brett Cockeram, Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer, spoke to the report.

There are two components to Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework. These are:

1. Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) Method 2 (M2)
Wellington Regional Council (WRC) will work with mana whenua kaitiaki to develop and implement, by December 2017, an information and monitoring strategy that is consistent with Mātauranga Māori and achieves the following:
 - (a) identifies tohu and provides resources that enable the measurement of huanga for mahinga kai and Māori customary use, and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, and

- (b) identifies tikanga needed to monitor tohu, and
 - (c) provides a reporting structure that enables kaitiaki information to contribute to the region's State of the Environment reporting, and
 - (d) ensures information is accessible and relevant to Māori.
2. The strategic regional approach necessary to support the integration of iwi specific monitoring strategies (M2) into regional monitoring processes.

The Framework and strategies developed through this project will provide a platform for any future projects and programmes such as upcoming whaitua. This platform will also enable iwi to participate more effectively and to inform and benefit the whaitua process and collaborative modelling, as well as any future GWRC projects or programmes.

The next step is to investigate funding options to develop the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework further by progressing M2.

4. Meeting lapsed due to lack of quorum

The meeting lapsed twice due to lack of quorum. While the meeting was lapsed, members present received two oral reports informally; these were:

- Evaluating effectiveness of the PNRP – an introduction; and
- Schedule 1 update

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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