

# Minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held in Council Chambers, Whakatāne District Council, Civic Centre, Commerce Street, Whakatāne on Friday, 8 June 2018 commencing at 10.08 a.m.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** M Vercoe (Te Runanga o Ngati Manawa)

**Members:** Councillor T Marr (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Reverend G Te Rire (Ngati Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust), M Araroa (Te Runanga o Ngati Awa), E August (Alternate, Ngati Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust), T O'Brien (Alternate, Te Runanga o Ngati Awa), Mayor A Bonne (Alternate, Whakatane District Council), Councillor G Johnston (Whakatane District Council), I Kahukiwa Smith (Hineuru), Councillor T Kingi (Taupo District Council), Councillor D Love (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor K Winters (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor W Clark (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), W Rangiwai (Alternate, Te Runanga o Ngati Whare), Councillor R Harvey (Alternate, Taupo District Council), N Rangiaho (Tuhoe), Councillor M McDonald (Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), J Wall (Alternate, Hineuru)

**In Attendance:** Bay of Plenty Regional Council: K O'Brien (Strategic Engagement Manager), N Willems (Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments Team Leader), S Kameta (Committee Advisor), P Chapman (Project Manager), H Simpson (Senior Advisor - Treaty), M Lee (Planner – Water Policy), J Low (Water Policy Team Leader), M Townsend (Engineering Manager), K Gosling (Community Engagement Team Leader), K Boreham (Marketing and Communications Advisor), S Pickles (Regulatory Compliance Team Leader), M Kapa (Land Management Officer); D Bowden (Taupō District Council), C Fern (Trustpower Limited), C Rowe (Southern Generation), Cr Silcock (Whakatane District Council), A McKenzie, M Archer, M McKenzie (Place Group Consultants), A Riwaka (Te Ohu Kaimoana), H Nuku-Tohiariki, B Carson (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare), E Hughes (Communications Consultant), B Bluett (Department of Conservation); Attendance in part: S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager).

**Apologies:** Deputy Chair E Rewi (Te Runanga o Ngati Whare), M Araroa (Te Runanga o Ngati Awa), Councillor G Johnston, Alternates: Mayor A Bonne (Whakatane District Council), Councillor R Harvey (Taupo District Council)

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## 1 Opening Karakia and Mihimihi

Reverend Te Rire opened the meeting with a karakia and mihimihi that acknowledged the connections between Forum partners and welcomed new alternate member Janice Wall. Councillor Marr replied with a mihi of acknowledgement.

## 2 Apologies

### Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Accepts the apologies tendered at the meeting from Earl Rewi, Miro Araroa, Councillor George Johnston, Mayor Tony Bonne and Councillor Rosie Harvey.

Winters/Love  
CARRIED

## 3 Acceptance of Late Items

Nil.

## 4 General Business

The Chair requested an update on the following matter:

- Update on Appeals to Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Regional Policy Statement.

The discussion would be taken in the Public Excluded section of the meeting.

## 5 Declaration of conflicts of interest

Nil.

## 6 Previous Minutes

### 6.1 Rangitāiki River Forum minutes - 16 March 2018

#### Matter arising

##### Staff Follow up

A member requested a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Waiohau Marae for their hospitality and hosting the Forum meeting on 16 March 2018.

### Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes of 16 March 2018, as a true and correct record.

Love/Winters  
CARRIED

## 7 Reports

### 7.1 Forum Membership Appointment

The report recorded a change in Forum membership for Hineuru with the appointment of Janice Wall as the alternate member for Hineuru, replacing David Jones.

Ms Wall gave a mihi of thanks and acknowledgement and said it was a privilege to be appointed as Hineuru's alternate.

#### Resolved

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Forum Membership Appointment;**
- 2 Confirms the appointment of Janice Wall onto the Rangitāiki River Forum as the alternate member for Hineuru, replacing David Jones.**

**Marr/Kingi  
CARRIED**

### 7.2 An Update on Plan Change 12 - Progress in the Rangitāiki Water Management Area

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2889263.*

The report provided an update on the development of Plan Change 12 - Rangitāiki Water Management Area (PC12). James Low and Michelle Lee presented an overview of the development phases and current freshwater science understanding.

#### Key points outlined:

- *Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki* provided clear mandate for freshwater limit setting. Appendix 1 outlined alignment between *Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki*, RPS Change 3 and PC12 working draft narratives for in-river freshwater objectives.
- Staff were engaging with Rangitāiki iwi and hapū to understand tangata whenua values and interests in freshwater. A desktop exercise would be undertaken to collate existing information held by Council.
- Regional Council would be adopting its Long Term Plan on 28 June, which included two additional staff specialised in Mātauranga Māori science and policy to assist with Council's work.
- Water flow estimate (EFSAP) modelling would use indicator species that require high flow such as rainbow trout, as some other species (including some natives) were less sensitive. The results would be reported back to a Forum workshop.
- Groundwater information was currently less comprehensive. The current rule of thumb allowed 35% of groundwater within the aquifer to be allocated. Information was expected to be available in 3-5 years' time, which would assess cause and effect of groundwater take beyond the current rule of thumb.

#### Members' comments:

- PC12 information was difficult to digest and communicate to Iwi and hapū. Staff acknowledged this was an issue and were working on conveying it in a more

understandable format. Staff suggested a workshop would allow time to better understand the science.

- Queried how Forum members could be involved in the engagement process, including the design process and for this to be built on a foundation of Mātauranga Māori for Iwi and hapū.

Staff Follow-up:

The Chair noted the Forum's legislated responsibility and requested a workshop on the Iwi engagement process.

- The fact that a Mātauranga Māori framework had not occurred alongside the western science process was a concern. Consideration was sought around potential conflicts between Mātauranga and western science and a gap in how and where Te Mana o Te Wai fitted.

Mr Low explained that the NPS-FM process (National Objectives Framework attributes in particular) was based on quantitative data and that the Environment Court had a preference for scientific/quantitative measures and hard evidence. While this was acknowledged, comment was raised that qualitative data such as Mātauranga Māori was needed and complementary, with the two methodologies working alongside each other and that while the language may differ, both may have the same outcome.

In Response to Questions:

- Future water quantity management in the upper Rangitāiki was constrained by Trustpower's consent and proposed Plan Change 9, which gave preference to existing hydro electricity generation use. PC9 had provisions to decline consent where there was over-allocation, using benchmarks and estimations.
- PerrinAg Consultants would provide an economic impact assessment for land use scenarios related to water quality with findings expected in the coming months.
- Staff acknowledged ecological health indicator findings within the Rangitāiki Catchment streams did not include all streams, with only some sites monitored.

Staff Follow-up:

Further workshops were requested in parallel to the Freshwater community groups to assist the Forum to understand the complexity of NPS-FM information, facilitated along with a presentation from Tina Porou to articulate Te Mana o Te Wai in the context of the NPS-FM process.

## **Resolved**

### **That the Rangitāiki River Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, 'An Update on Plan Change 12 - Progress in the Rangitāiki Water Management Area'.**
- 2 Requests a dual workshop process to be implemented for the Forum, in parallel to the Rangitāiki Freshwater community group workshops.**
- 3 Requests a presentation from Tina Porou on Te Mana o Te Wai in context with the NPS-FM at a future Forum Meeting.**

**Rangiwai/Kingi  
CARRIED**

### 7.3 Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna

*Refer PowerPoint Presentations Objective IDs A2893302, A2894424.*

Nancy Willems provided an update on the status of the Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Project and sought endorsement of a structure to integrate the Tuna Forum and the Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Steering Group.

An amendment to Recommendation 4 (refer agenda page 163) was requested advising additional wording to be inserted to reflect the resolutions of Iwi as follows: “...with regard to not supporting current spillway trials at Matahina, and for future trials to be considered on a case-by-case basis.”

#### Key points:

- Public consultation on the North Island Tuna Fisheries Review would commence in the following weeks;
- Status of Trustpower’s implementation actions and recommendations;
- Noted the status of Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Plan actions and endorsement sought on the completed literature review.

#### Ngapera Rangiaho (Member for Tūhoe) – NZ Fish Passage Guidelines

- Provided historical background on a thesis written in 1930 by Maggie Papakura on Māori customs and practices for sustainable fishing and river management.
- Reported on the NZ Fish Passage Conference on 18 April 2018 in Wellington and discussion held on effectiveness of the Fish Passage Guidelines (available online).
- Gave an overview of guideline learnings, which had been applied to the Kioreweku culvert works between Galatea and Waiohau in April and May 2018 in collaboration with Whakatane District Council staff, Opus International Consultants and fish passage expert and consultant Kelly Hughes.

#### Alan Riwaka, Te Ohu Kaimoana - Tuna Forum Update

- Outlined the proposed structure to integrate the Tuna Forum and Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna Plan and summarised goals and outcomes for the proposed Tuna Project Plan.
- Noted that working with industry stakeholders would require kōrero to be open and transparent. A hui was scheduled to consider tools and management for development of a harvest strategy.
- Work was in progress on the potential of a mahinga mataitai and developing a protocol for an annual harvest regime and science reference points.
- An invitation to the power companies was proposed to address issues associated with dams.
- Waikato Regional Council had offered to collaborate and assist with development of a habitat strategy, water quality strategy and input into the North Island Tuna Review.

#### In Response to Questions:

- Fish ladders illustrated in the literature review (agenda page 184) that may be over 4m were outside the NZ Fish Passage Guidelines.
- Regarding connections between the Forum, Steering Group and Tuna Forum, while the new proposed structure sought to integrate the Steering Group with other

agency stakeholders under the umbrella of the Tuna Forum, the Steering Group's strategic role in terms of strategy, planning and monitoring would remain.

Discussion and Comments:

- Member Ngapera Rangiaho was acknowledged for applying knowledge from the Conference and Fish Passage Guidelines to assist with Kioreweku culvert works.
- Utilising the Wetland Restoration Project to support tuna habitat was noted by staff.

Staff Follow-up:

- It was requested that staff explore options to integrate the Tuna Forum and clarify the governance framework and reporting lines.

## Resolved

### That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Te Hekenga Nui o Te Tuna;**
- 2 Requests staff to explore options to integrate the Tuna Forum and report back to a future Forum Meeting.**
- 3 Notes a need for written confirmation from the Forum and/or the Forum Iwi partners with regard to not supporting the current spillway trials at Matahina and for future trials to be considered on a case-by-case basis.**

Marr/O'Brien  
CARRIED

## 7.4 Rangitāiki River Scheme Update

*Refer PowerPoint Presentations Objective IDs A2893547, A2894428.*

Mark Townsend and Paula Chapman provided an update on Rivers and Drainage and Engineering work streams underway in the Rangitāiki River Scheme following the 2017 April flood events.

Key points:

- Council had been responsive to the resourcing, delivery and funding needs of the flood repair works. It was noted that a greater degree of engagement and communication was underway as the projects progressed.
- Rangitāiki River Scheme Review recommendations were being implemented.
- It was acknowledged that Regional Council had been slow to engage with Iwi at the time of the flood and were now in the process of engaging with affected Iwi.
- The College Road floodwall replacement was in progress in line with the Rangitāiki River Scheme Review recommendations.
- Despite extensive flood mitigation infrastructure and measures, the residual risk of stopbank failure would remain.
- Council was investigating Regional Flood Risk Management options for the Rangitāiki floodway spillway utilising two landowner properties, which would be a long term process.

- The River Scheme Sustainability Project had commenced investigations on possible themes and options. A report was anticipated in September, following which findings would be presented to a future Forum meeting.

#### In Response to Questions:

- Delayed communication between the Regional Council and Trustpower at the time of the 2017 April flood resulted from several situations impacting dam safety and a lack of communication and understanding, which had now been resolved.
- Rain gauges at Whirinaki had been reinstated.
- Bifurcation at Thornton was the subject of a notified consent variation.

## **Resolved**

### **That the Rangitāiki River Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki River Scheme Update.**

**Love/Marr  
CARRIED**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1.15pm.

Tu O'Brien **withdrew** from the meeting during the adjournment at 1.15pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.45pm.

## **7.5 Rangitāiki River Catchment - Operations and General Update**

Nancy Willems provided an update on general matters and operational activity occurring in the Rangitāiki River Catchment. Members were advised a total of 40km of riparian fencing had been completed during the 2017/18 financial year.

The following contractors supporting Rangitāiki River Catchment project work were in attendance and provided the following introductions:

- Place Group – Rangitāiki Wetlands Restoration Project Managers**  
Angus McKenzie (Company Director), Michelle Archer (Project Manager) and Maureen McKenzie (Communications) greeted the Forum with a mihi and provided background on their experience, which included environmental and wetland management, working with hydro-electricity companies, co-governance, joint initiatives and tuna projects within the Tainui rohe. The Hamilton-based company was founded on community-based principles and outcomes. The project team was excited at the challenge and opportunity to manage the project, were available and contactable and appreciated listening to discussion to gain an understanding of the Forum's work.
- Huia Nuku-Tohiariki – Kaitiakitanga and Strategy Mapping Project**  
Mrs Nuku-Tohiariki greeted the Forum with a mihi and provided background on her connections. Members were advised the project would be underpinned by *Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki* and that engagement with Forum partners would occur to discuss the protocols and tikanga of the project.

### 3. Elizabeth Hughes – Rangitāiki Wetlands Project Communications Plan and Strategy

Ms Hughes greeted the Forum and advised of her background in communications and working with Waikato Regional Council, Local Government NZ, Tauranga City Council and the Lakes Rotorua Incentives Committee. Her role was to develop the communications plan and strategy for the Rangitāiki Wetlands Project and would be engaging with Forum members to support communication outcomes for the Forum collectively and individually.

#### Staff Comments:

- Regarding the update on *He Korowai Mātauranga* under section 1.5.2 of the report, Strategic Engagement Manager Kataraina O'Brien advised of a correction to the timing of completion of the Mātauranga Māori implementation plan, which was anticipated at the end of the year with rollout in 2019/20. She noted this work would converge with some of the work being carried out by Ms Huia Nuku-Tohiariki in regard to developing a list of Mātauranga Māori practitioners.
- Wetland Restoration Project works would commence in the 2018/19 financial year during spring and summer. A site blessing was being considered however, preliminary survey work had already commenced. It was noted that the Southern Generation site was still pending.

## **Resolved**

### **That the Rangitāiki River Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rangitāiki River catchment - Operations and General Update.**

**Winters/Rangiaho  
CARRIED**

## 7.6 **Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki Implementation Workshop Summary**

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2889440.*

Simon Stokes summarised the workshop results from 10 November 2017 and sought the Forum consider next steps to define a coordinated approach.

#### Key points:

- While the Forum understood the objectives and actions of *Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki* however, feedback was needed to understand and define what success looked like, including measures, levels of commitment, delivery and coordination.
- While Proposed Change 3 to the Regional Policy Statement would direct regional and district plans, alignment was needed with each of the partner organisation's strategies and actions within *Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki*.
- Sought the Forum endorse the suggested next steps outlined under section 4.1 of the report.
- The Terms of Reference required small alterations in how the Forum's work moved forward, with no additional changes needed of a possible structure for progressing next steps. Minor changes would be brought to the next Forum meeting in August.

- Education and communication had been a key element arising from the workshop.

## Resolved

That the Rangitāiki River Forum:

- 1 Receives the report, Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki Implementation Workshop Summary.
- 2 Agrees to the suggested next steps outlined under section 4.1 of the report.

Love/Kingi  
CARRIED

## 8 Public Excluded Section

### Resolved

Resolution to exclude the public

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General Subject of Matter to be Considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to this matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) LGOIMA 1987 for passing this resolution
Public Excluded Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes – 16 March 2018	To maintain legal professional privilege.	Disclosing the information may constitute contempt of Court.
General Business Item – Update on Appeals to Proposed Change 3 (Rangitāiki River) to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement	To maintain legal professional privilege.	Disclosing the information may constitute contempt of Court.

Love/Winters  
CARRIED

## 9 Closing Karakia and Mihi

Reverend Te Rire provided a mihi that acknowledged the connections, efforts and work of members and staff before closing the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 2.53 pm.**