



Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

**11 September 2024
10am**

Mātaatua Room

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

5 Quay Street

Whakatane

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Meeting

11 September at 10:00 am

Agenda

- 1 **Welcome**
- 2 **Apologies**
- 3 **Notes of previous meeting held 6 March 2024**
- 4 **Matters arising from previous meeting**
- 5 **Long Term Plan update 2024-34 and Rivers and Drainage
Asset Management Plan update.**
- 6 **Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group**
- 7 **Capital Works Programme**
- 8 **Maintenance Works Programme**
- 9 **Finance Report**
- 10 **Essential Freshwater update**
- 11 **Rangitāiki River Forum**
- 12 **Gravel Management Update**
- 13 **General business**
- 14 **Public forum**
- 15 **Meeting closure**
- 16 **Lunch**
- 17 **Field Trip**

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting notes

Commencing:	Wednesday, 6 March 2024, 11.00 am
Venue:	Committee Meeting Room 1, Whakatāne office, 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne
Chairperson:	Councillor Toi Iti
Members:	Peter Askey (Rangitāiki Plains), Alan Law (Rangitāiki Plains), Shona Pedersen (Galatea/Waiohau), Linda Virbickas (Rangitāiki Plains), Heyden Johnston (Urban), Alison Silcock (Galatea/Waiohau) Peter Flowerday (Urban), Terewai Kalman (Chair - Rangitāiki River Forum)
BOPRC elected members:	Councillors Ken Shirley and Malcolm Campbell
BOPRC staff:	Chris Ingle (GM Integrated Catchments), Kirsty Brown (Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager), Dan Batten (Rivers and Drainage Operations Manager), Mark Townsend (Engineering Manager), Andrew Pawson (Area Engineer), Hemi Barsdell (Assets Management Specialist), Jenn Goodfellow (Asset Management Coordinator), AJ Prinsloo (Finance Manager), Laura Boucher (Communications Partner), Paula Chapman (Projects Manager).
Public:	Scotty Muir
Apologies:	Michael Van Tilburg (WDC), WDC Councillors Wilson James and Tu O'Brien, Leith Comer (Chair - Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group)

1 Opening

Councillor Iti opened the meeting. The following items were tabled:

- 1 Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme – Draft LTP 2024-34 Budget.
- 2 Draft Long Term Plan Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme handout
- 3 Updated Finance Report – reserves, loans, and asset valuation.

1.1 Items for General Business

- 1 Trees fallen in the Rangitāiki River – Alison Silcock.
- 2 Gravel buildup in the upper catchment – Peter Askey.
- 3 Communication to members of the Communal Pumping Schemes – Linda Virbickas.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

2 Previous Meeting Notes

2.1 Resolved:

That the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group:

Confirms the notes from the previous meeting held 13 September 2023 are a true and correct record.

**Iti/Shirley
CARRIED**

2.2 Matters Arising:

- Confirmation that there were no non-conformities resulting from the official Audit NZ review.
- Smith Road Bridge Project – delays have occurred, and Council has been working with WDC to address these. The work is scheduled to commence in June 2024 and will take approximately 12 weeks to complete. Peter Hay, an external Project Engineer, has been engaged to support the project. Concerns were raised regarding affected farmers.

Action item:

- Updates on the Smith Road Project to be provided to affected landowners.

3 Action Items from meeting 13 September 2023

An overview of the action items from the previous meeting was provided and then opened for discussion.

Discussion:

- Gravel transportation logistics and the gravel market. Issues relating to gravel build up and the potential outcomes during an adverse weather event.

Action Item:

- Seek legal advice on BOPRC's current liability and the Scheme's liability if the gravel build-up poses a risk during an adverse weather event or other natural hazard incident.

4 Agenda items

4.1 Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan 2024-74

Presented by: Kirsty Brown, Hemi Barsdell and Laura Boucher. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Staff's focus has been on balancing affordability and risk while ensuring the continued function of rivers and drainage activities.
- Draft budgets are showing increases in both operational and capital expenditure.
- External pressures such as inflation, increased interest rates and insurance hikes contributing to unavoidable cost increases.
- Capital investment in flood protection has boosted resilience but it comes at a cost.
- Loan interest rate is forecasted to move from 2.5% to 4%, resulting in a significant financial cost to the scheme.
- Growing need to prepare for change climate and meeting an increased demand for Rivers and Drainage services.
- Noted that presented budget information is based on version 4 of the budget adopted by Council for review by Audit NZ in December 2023 and for public consultation from 8 March to 9 April 2024. Staff are currently working towards version 5 of the budget.
- Detailed budgets with loan and rating implications and property examples were presented.
- Overview of predicted version 5 budget movements.
- ORC will be removed from Year 1 of the proposed LTP budget as this project will be completed in the current financial year.
- Staff are still working towards finding further savings.
- Overview of the LTP consultation process provided.

Discussion:

- Central government funding of \$2 million will be received at the end of the current financial year (2023/24) which will reduce loans and repayments.
- Feedback requested on the proposed budget of \$90,000 for asset condition defect repairs and \$107,000 for Bylaws implementation. Clarification of defects and maintenance being different line items and separate categories of work. Jobs are prioritised and can be scaled up to be capital projects if required.
- Concerns about the rates increase and the pressure on targeted ratepayers.

- Consultation with community is insufficient, town hall meetings were proposed by the advisory group members.
- Submission support for groups is available through the Council.
- Lobbying for central government funding is ongoing. River managers across the country have put together the 'Before the deluge' proposal, to lobby for central government funding of up to 75% of capital works.

5 Capital Works Programme Update

Presented by: Laura Boucher and Mark Townsend.
Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Overview of the Scheme's web page.
- Rangitāiki Spillway overview. Works are proceeding with earthworks well underway. The capacity review had identified that the stopbank immediately downstream of the spillway was slightly low and so this stopbank raising work has been undertaken as part of the spillway project. Field trip to be planned after the September meeting.
- Lower Rangitāiki Stopbank upgrade (left bank). Had been delayed a year with the consent processing which unfortunately is becoming common. This is a national problem as technical reviewers are scarce. Currently 75% of the work has been completed. Project completion is forecast for the end of April.
- Tarawera stopbank upgrade - Contractor is in place for the first section. Second section is currently in consent process. Third section is out to tender.
- ORC floodgate replacement was brought forward due to a serious concern about asset integrity. There have been good weather conditions for completing the work and project completion is on schedule. Temporary culverts and flood gates were installed upstream these will stay in place permanently as an added benefit.
- Salinity Piezometers have been installed across the Rangitāiki Plains. Staff are seeking approval to also utilise monitoring boreholes that are on private land.
- Rangitāiki Floodplain settlement monitoring. A series of monitoring lines is being set up across the plains to assess peat shrinkage. Intention is to have a 5 yearly cycle of monitoring.

Discussion:

- Email updates on capital works have been very helpful for members.
- Clarification sought and provided on the process for flood protection during the Rangitāiki Spillway construction works.
- Sub soil drainage to protect from seepage - technical specifications explained.
- Confirmation that there is no resource consent breach in the lower Rangitāiki work. Noted that there are Wahi tapu sites and cultural

monitoring from Taiwhakaiaea kaitiaki are supporting the project in this respect.

- There are currently no archaeological issues on any of the sites.

Action Items:

- Website hits will be circulated to members.
- Piezometers monitoring drawings to be shared with group.
- Field trip to Rangitāiki Spillway to be scheduled for later in the year after the September meeting.

6 Maintenance Works Programme Update

Presented by: Dan Batten and Andrew Pawson. Agenda report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Key focus for staff has been on efficient use of resources and strong procurement practices.
- 36 erosion sites on the Tarawera River have been identified. Two of these will be remedied this financial year.
- Condition assessment defect repairs of College Road stopbank downstream of new flood wall – tree removal and the chasing of the roots. Pipe removal and sump/septic tank found.
- Stopbank damage continues to be an issue, both from stock damage or uncontained animals and the public.
- Mechanical willow and vegetation management has been carried out in the upper Rangitāiki and Whirinaki Rivers.
- Rangitāiki River, Galatea erosion repairs included consultation with Ngāti Manawa.
- Whirinaki River, Galatea – trench willows work programmed. The river is very close to topping out. Trenches to be established to reduce height in the gravel beach.
- Minor scheme works in the Awaiti Canal where the banks have breached in previous floods.

7 Essential Freshwater Update

Presented by: Kirsty Brown on behalf of Nicola Green, Principal Advisor Policy & Planning

Key Points:

- Changes to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP) which will result in potential rule changes including:
 - Drain discharges regulated to improve water quality.

- Regulations on setbacks and stock exclusion from rivers and drains.
- Guidelines for managing stock on steep land.
- Regulations against grazing practices that lead to bare soil.
- Control measures for nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser use.
- Regulation of scheme works near rivers and wetlands.
- Amendments to allocation limits and minimum flow requirements for water extraction.
- Council has delayed the release of the draft RPS and RNRP documents due to the recent central government changes.
- Council has extended proposed plan notification date to Sep 2025 (from December 2024)

Discussion:

- Currently working under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) statement that existed pre-election.
- The due date for public notification has been pushed out by central government to 2027 but Council recently resolved to set a public notification date of September 2025. Noting however that this may be revised dependent on the government's NPS-FM review.
- Currently, still working within the existing policy statement.
- 100s of water take and wastewater legacy consents will expire in October 2026 and will need to be reviewed which cannot be pushed out to 2027.
- A lot of uncertainty but Council is legally bound to work within the existing law.

Action Items:

- Draft changes and options will be shared when available.
- Share the web links from presentation with group members.

8 Finance Report Update

Presented by: Kirsty Brown. Agenda report taken as read. Tabled report (including reserve and loan information)

Key Points:

- Total operating revenue \$26,000 higher than budget.
- Total operation expenditure was \$322,000 higher.
- Resulting in a total operating deficit of \$296,000.
- Total capital revenue \$1 million lower than budget, due to climate change resilient funding due by year end.
- Total capital expenditure was \$3.5 million which is \$275,000 higher than budgeted.
- Total reserves (\$1.6 million).

- Internal loans closing balance as of 31 December 2023 \$42 million.
- Asset valuation as at 1 July 2023 of \$160 million.

Discussion

- Confirmation that the climate resilience fund for capital revenue is central government funding. The total of the funding will be \$2 million by the end of the year. The forecast included receiving the first million by the 31 December 2023.

9 Rangitāiki River Forum and Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Updates

Verbal update presented by: Terewai Kalman, Rangitāiki River Forum (RFF) Chair.

Key Points:

- Next RRF meeting is 15 March 2024.
- Current conversations have been around the LTP planning and freshwater management.
- Discussions with Pioneer Energy on their processes for the Aniwhenua Dam re consenting. Current consent expires in 2026 and Ngāti Manawa have been in discussion regarding their consent renewal application. There are concerns about flooding, mitigation and where the responsibility lies.

10 Gravel Management Update

Presented by: Paula Chapman. Agenda report taken as read.

Key points:

- The Council encourages extraction in areas of rivers and streams that are highly aggraded and perched.
- This summer updated cross section surveys of tributary riverbeds in the upper Rangitāiki have been undertaken.
- Noted that Southern Generation Partnership Limited has lodged resource consent application for removal of gravel material from Lake Āniwaniwa.
- Changes to gravel extraction fee proposed increased from 90c/m³ to \$2.70/m³ to be charge to contractors.
- Consultation is underway with contractors, local iwi and interested parties. Interested parties are encouraged to make submissions alongside the LTP 2024-2034 process.
- The proposed new gravel fee has been calculated by reviewing Council's actual costs involved in gravel management and using historical extraction rates.

- The Fees and Charges Policy allows for waiver of fees, this is yet to be finalised for gravel management.

Possible waiver scenarios include:

- 1) Direct use of gravel, non-profit community initiatives.
- 2) Aggraded riverbeds that in the opinion of the Council, pose a flooding risk.

Discussion:

- Discussion about how the dams affect the gravel movement and the amount of gravel that is entering the rivers due to storm events.
- Upcoming reconsenting application for Pioneer Energy.
- BOPRC will be reviewing report from Pioneer Energy.

Action Items:

- Form a subgroup to look more closely at the upper Rangitāiki River gravel issues. Group to meet before the September 2024 meeting. Members to be confirmed, interest noted from Councillor Campbell, Mark Townsend, Terewai Kalman, Scotty Muir and Shona Pederson.
- Distribute to members the examples of gravel extraction fee charges across the country.

11 General Business

Parameters for Aniwhenua Dam Reconsenting

Presented by: Kirsty Brown

Report taken as read.

Key Points:

- Legal guidance statement has been developed to guide RAD input into the reconsenting process for the Aniwhenua Dam.
- Pioneer Energy's reconsenting application has not yet been lodged.

Discussion:

- Clarification that this advisory group can be involved in the application process.
- Can not address historical issues and can only move forward with future impact.
- The current consent expires in October 2026.
- Advisory group members questioned whether they can input into any submission made by Rivers and Drainage.
- The potential for Pioneer Energy to use the fast track consenting process was noted.

11.1 Alison Silcock - Trees in the Rangitāiki River

Key Points - Members:

- Murray Downie, local fly fisherman, has concerns about the state of the river. Fallen trees and overhanging willows.
- The area is out of the scheme maintenance area (upstream of SH38 road bridge)
-

Action Items:

- Dan to follow up and will ascertain the scope of the issue.
- Provide the boundary map before the next meeting to show the rateable areas.

11.2 Linda Virbickas - Communication around the pumping schemes

Key Points - Members:

- There are no regular updates on the designated caretakers of the Communal Pumping Schemes.
- Need an easier way for coordinating response when there are flooding events etc.

Action Items:

- This will be added to the agenda of the next Communal Pumping Scheme meetings.

14.25 pm - the meeting closed.

Action Sheet

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Meeting

06 March 2024

Action	Person Responsible	Completed	Comment
Smith Road Bridge: Affected Schemes members are sent an update on the project	Laura Boucher/Chris Ingle	Completed	Update sent 22/07/2024
Seek legal advice on BOPRC's current liability and the liability of the schemes if the gravel build-up poses a risk during a weather event or other natural incident.	Kirsty	Completed	Legal opinion obtained March 2024
Communication with community regarding managing pests affecting RAD assets.	Laura	Completed	Sent 27/05/2024 Available on the BOPRC website
Town Hall meetings were proposed to discuss the LTP with the community.	Laura	Deferred	Engagement plan was set and approved with councillors for having LTP engagement aligned to other events. Engagement for LTP is now finished.
Hits from the capital works websites will be circulated to members.	Laura	Completed	Sent 27/05/2024
Piezometers monitoring drawings are to be shared with the group.	Mark	Completed	Sent 08/07/2024
Field trip to Rangitāiki Spillway to be scheduled for later in the year after the September meeting.	Mark	Underway	
Freshwater - Draft changes and options will be shared when available.	Kirsty	On Hold	To be covered in the meeting.
Freshwater - share links from the presentation with the group.	Kirsty	Completed	Sent 14/08/2024
Form a subgroup to deal with the gravel issue. Group to meet before the September 2024 meeting. Members to	Dan Batten/Paula Chapman	Underway	Waiotahi looking at setting up gravel extraction on the lower Horomanga.

RANGITAIKI-TARAWERA RIVERS SCHEME MEETING NOTES - 06 MARCH 2024 - DRAFT

Action	Person Responsible	Completed	Comment
be confirmed, interest from Councillor Campbell, Terewai Kalman Scottie Muir and Shona Pederson.			Verbal update/or included in gravel management report
. Distribute to members the examples of gravel extraction rates across the country.	Paula	Completed	Infrastructure Commission Aggregate Study sent: 18/04/2024
. Draft submission for Aniwhenua re-consent will be disseminated to the members of the advisory group for feedback.	Kirsty	On Hold	Awaiting application
. Follow up on the chance of fast-track consent for the Aniwhenua dam.	Kirsty	Completed	It has been confirmed with Consents Manager that they could re-consent under the fast track process.
. Ascertain the scope of the issue of the trees in the Rangitāiki river.	Dan	Completed	Trees are deemed to be outside of the R&D maintenance area. Update in report
. Provide the boundary map before the next meeting to show the scheme maintenance areas.	Dan	Underway	To be presented at next AG meetings

Report To: Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group Members

Meeting Date: 11 September 2024

Report Writer: Hemi Barsdell, Acting Rivers and Drainage Asset Manager

Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Rivers and Drainage Assets Management Plan 2024-74

On 26 June 2024, Council formally adopted its Long Term Plan 2024-34 (LTP), which sets BOPRC’s strategic direction for the next ten years, including the work to be delivered and how it will be funded. Alongside adoption of the LTP, the updated Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan 2024-74 (AMP) was also adopted. The AMP includes the scheme’s capital and operational forecasted works and budgets. This report outlines what this means for the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme and Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme over the coming years.

Appended below are the detailed budgets for the LTP.

Capital Works Programme

Major new flood control projects costing \$500,000 or more that are planned for 2024-2054 are listed in the table below. Entries marked with an asterisk are placeholder costs. The estimated costs include inflation.

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

Major work	Project Cost	Timing	Type
	\$000		
Rangitāiki – Tarawera Rivers Scheme			
Tarawera Stopbank Upgrades	1,272	2024/25	Renewal
Rangitaiki Stopbank Upgrades	1,060	2024/25	Renewal
Rangitaiki Spillway	1,868	2024/25	Renewal
*Rangitaiki Stopbank Upgrades	2,373	2031/32	Renewal
*Tarawera Stopbank Upgrades	1,210	2032/33	Renewal
Rangitaiki-Tarawera Capacity Review and Other	7,273	2039/40 – 2043/44	Renewal
Rangitaiki-Tarawera Capacity Review and Other	7,779	2049/50 – 2053/54	Renewal

Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme

Major work	Project Cost	Timing	Type
	\$000		
Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme			
Structure renewals	1,539	2024/25 - 2033/34	Renewal
Structure renewals	645	2034/35 – 2038/39	Renewal
Structure renewals	695	2039/40 – 2043/44	Renewal
Structure renewals	745	2044/45 - 2048/49	Renewal
Structure renewals	795	2049/50 - 2053/54	Renewal

Operational Works Programme

Routine operational maintenance works will be undertaken in accordance with the AMP. The AMP sets out the timing for the full suite of works including, but not limited to, pump station inspections/maintenance, rock replenishment, willow management, drain desilting, and stopbank condition assessments. Routine operational work programmes will be balanced with the need to respond to flooding events and flood damage.

The Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme LTP budget contains annual savings of \$197,000 in operating budgets when compared to the draft LTP from March 2024. These savings are due to reductions in rock replenishment rates in non-critical areas (\$170k) and Bylaw contractor hours (\$27k).

LTP Communications and Engagement

At the March 2024 Advisory Group meeting, an update was provided on the proposed communications and engagement activity to support the LTP process.

Communications and engagement activities leading up to and during the LTP consultation period aimed to raise awareness about the process and encourage submissions.

For the consultation and the supporting communications campaign, we offered different ways to connect with the community and tried to reach the community in places and ways that would work for them.

Below is a high-level summary of what was presented to councillors in May 2024.

Pre-Engagement

Two ‘pulse check’ online surveys were promoted via Regional Council’s online and print channels, as well as through a dedicated digital advertising campaign.

The first survey ran from 14-28 September 2023 and focused on priorities for the region. This survey received 383 contributions from 363 contributors.

The second survey ran from 5-12 October 2023 and focused on activity-specific questions. This survey received 1,326 contributions from 1,277 contributors.

Consultation Communications and Engagement Activities

A campaign to communicate the LTP consultation period ran during March and April 2024. Communications ran across print, radio and digital (including social media, programmatic video, Spotify, mobile proximity advertising and direct display online advertising).

A consultation document was produced and distributed around the region through existing council networks. These were also available at engagement events and online.

Regional Council staff attended a number of existing events, undertook one-on-one hui with Post Settlement Governance Entity's, iwi, hapū and Māori land trusts; online presentations; Councillor 'drop-in' sessions and 'pop-up' stands at key locations.

Overall, Regional Council received a total of 464 submissions, of which 391 were received for the LTP; a breakdown of this is shown below:

Topic	Submissions received
Revenue and Financing Policy	1
Rates Remission and Postponement Policies	50
Fees and Charges Policy	21
Development Contributions or Financial Contributions Policy	1
LTP	391
Total submissions	464

Hemi Barsdell
Acting Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Long Term Plan 2024-2034

	2024-2034 Long Term Plan									
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
OPERATING										
Operating revenue by Natural										
General Rates - Allocated	779	797	860	865	886	919	959	984	1,006	1,041
Targeted Rates - All	6,638	6,843	7,102	7,125	7,230	7,326	7,456	7,585	7,715	7,754
Targeted Rates - Reserves	(900)	(700)	(500)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Reserve Interest Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investment Income	900	881	922	916	942	958	982	990	986	979
Landholder Contribution	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	15
Rent Received	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Miscellaneous Revenue	98	99	101	103	104	106	105	107	109	108
Total operating revenue	7,534	7,940	8,505	9,028	9,183	9,330	9,523	9,687	9,838	9,903
Expenditure by Natural										
Depreciation - Rivers and Drainage	568	584	611	638	645	613	627	646	666	683
Infrastructural Insurance	417	466	522	585	655	732	818	832	846	838
Other Insurance	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Electricity/Gas	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Contract Work	1,243	1,263	1,289	1,210	1,232	1,254	1,280	1,302	1,325	1,320
Predicted Flood Damage	0	0	0	744	0	0	0	0	1,757	0
Materials	239	242	247	251	255	259	258	262	267	265
Expenditure (before charges and recoveries)	2,475	2,564	2,678	3,436	2,796	2,867	2,993	3,052	4,870	3,116
Net overhead charges and recoveries	3,418	3,377	3,495	3,401	3,291	3,154	3,044	2,964	2,850	2,717
Total operating expenditure	5,893	5,941	6,173	6,837	6,087	6,021	6,037	6,016	7,720	5,833
Total operating surplus (deficit)	1,641	1,999	2,332	2,191	3,096	3,309	3,486	3,671	2,118	4,070
Operating funding										
Transfer from Flood Damage Reserve	0	0	0	(744)	0	0	0	0	(1,757)	0
Transfer from Equalisation Reserve	0	(32)	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Targeted Rate Reserves	(900)	(700)	(500)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Flood Damage Reserve	227	238	250	244	244	244	244	244	244	244
Transfer to Equalisation Reserve	20	0	7	0	21	46	78	78	71	82
Transfer to Target Rate Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to ARR - additional loan payments	2,294	2,493	2,575	2,692	2,831	3,019	3,165	3,349	3,560	3,744
Total operating funding	1,641	1,999	2,332	2,191	3,096	3,309	3,486	3,671	2,118	4,070
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE										
Rangitaiki Floodway	1,868	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitaiki River modelling	0	0	0	0	56	171	174	0	0	0
Tarawera stopbank construction	1,272	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,373	1,210	0
Rangitaiki Tarawera pump electronics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitaiki stopbank upgrades	1,060	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitaiki Tarawera fish passage	21	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitaiki overlay	0	367	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOS Stage 7 Edgumbe	0	0	348	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitaiki Tarawera consent new	0	0	40	74	190	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitaiki Canal Construction	0	1,047	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure	4,220	1,435	409	74	246	171	174	2,373	1,210	0
Capital cost of borrowing										
New loans - clean heat programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clean heat loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure loan repayments	2,862	3,077	3,186	3,330	3,477	3,631	3,792	3,995	4,226	4,427
Total Other Capital Costs	2,862	3,077	3,186	3,330	3,477	3,631	3,792	3,995	4,226	4,427
Total capital expenditure	7,083	4,512	3,595	3,404	3,723	3,803	3,966	6,368	5,436	4,427
CAPITAL FUNDING										
Funding of Capital Expenditure										
Capital grants received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Long Term Plan 2024-2034

	2024-2034 Long Term Plan									
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Increase in debt	(4,220)	(1,435)	(409)	(74)	(246)	(171)	(174)	(2,373)	(1,210)	0
Funding of capital expenditure	(4,220)	(1,435)	(409)	(74)	(246)	(171)	(174)	(2,373)	(1,210)	0
Funding of borrowing costs										
Clean heat programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clean heat loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure loan repayments	(2,862)	(3,077)	(3,186)	(3,330)	(3,477)	(3,631)	(3,792)	(3,995)	(4,226)	(4,427)
Total loan	(2,862)	(3,077)	(3,186)	(3,330)	(3,477)	(3,631)	(3,792)	(3,995)	(4,226)	(4,427)
Total capital funding	(7,083)	(4,512)	(3,595)	(3,404)	(3,723)	(3,803)	(3,966)	(6,368)	(5,436)	(4,427)

Rangitāiki Drainage Long Term Plan 2024-2034

	2024-2034 Long Term Plan									
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
OPERATING										
Operating revenue by Natural										
Targeted Rates - All	1,613	1,715	1,799	1,845	1,873	1,918	1,955	1,995	2,009	1,922
Targeted Rates - Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Reserve Interest Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total operating revenue	1,613	1,715	1,799	1,845	1,873	1,918	1,955	1,995	2,009	1,922
Expenditure by Natural										
Depreciation - Rivers and Drainage	107	64	71	78	83	82	87	91	96	99
Infrastructural Insurance	63	71	79	89	99	111	124	126	128	127
Other Insurance	8	8	9	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Contract Work	518	527	537	547	556	566	577	586	596	592
Predicted Flood Damage	0	0	0	97	0	0	0	0	269	0
Materials	63	64	65	66	67	68	68	70	71	71
Expenditure (before charges and recoveries)	758	733	762	887	816	839	867	884	1,171	900
Net overhead charges and recoveries	790	859	909	920	915	924	925	939	926	939
Total operating expenditure	1,548	1,592	1,671	1,807	1,731	1,763	1,792	1,823	2,097	1,839
Total operating surplus (deficit)	65	123	128	39	142	155	163	172	(88)	83
Operating funding										
Transfer from Flood Damage Reserve	0	0	0	(97)	0	0	0	0	(269)	0
Transfer to Flood Damage Reserve	35	37	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Transfer to Target Rate Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to ARR - additional loan payments	29	86	92	100	106	119	127	136	145	47
Total operating funding	65	123	128	39	142	155	163	172	(88)	83
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE										
Rangitāiki Drainage Schemes Renewals	237	241	246	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitāiki Drainage consent new	0	0	5	11	22	0	0	0	0	0
Rangitāiki Drainage fish passage structure renewals	21	21	21	109	112	114	116	119	121	123
Total Capital Expenditure	258	262	273	120	134	114	116	119	121	123
Capital cost of borrowing										
New loans - clean heat programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clean heat loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure loan repayments	136	151	164	177	189	201	214	227	241	146
Total Other Capital Costs	136	151	164	177	189	201	214	227	241	146
Total capital expenditure	394	413	436	298	323	315	330	346	362	269
CAPITAL FUNDING										
Funding of Capital Expenditure										
Capital Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Increase in debt	(258)	(262)	(273)	(120)	(134)	(114)	(116)	(119)	(121)	(123)
Funding of capital expenditure	(258)	(262)	(273)	(120)	(134)	(114)	(116)	(119)	(121)	(123)
Funding of borrowing costs										
Clean heat programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clean heat loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital expenditure loan repayments	(136)	(151)	(164)	(177)	(189)	(201)	(214)	(227)	(241)	(146)
Total loan	(136)	(151)	(164)	(177)	(189)	(201)	(214)	(227)	(241)	(146)
Total capital funding	(394)	(413)	(436)	(298)	(323)	(315)	(330)	(346)	(362)	(269)

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

Capital Works Programme 2024/25

The following table outlines the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme capital work programme for 2024/25.

Budget figures are from the long Term Plan 2024-2034 but exclusive of proposed carry forwards from the previous financial year.

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Capital Budget for 2024/25 is \$4,220,000.

Project name and background	Budget Annual Plan 2024/25	Update	Milestones 2024/25
<p>Rangitāiki Floodway - Spillway</p> <p>The Rangitāiki Floodway is designed to take pressure off the Rangitāiki River during flood events by diverting some of its flow. It is a multi-staged project that started in 2011.</p> <p>The spillway is the final stage of the Rangitāiki Floodway Project. In an event, the Spillway enables water from the Rangitāiki River to pass over a fixed crest weir (lowered, concrete-covered stopbank) and into the Floodway. This will help divert water away from the Rangitāiki River and reduce the risk of significant flood damage to both rural and urban areas.</p> <p><i>Central Government Climate Resilience Funding has been approved for this project. The funding has contributed up to \$2,100,000 of the spillway physical works costs.</i></p> <p>For information and updates visit the Project Page or www.boprc.govt.nz/our-projects/rangitaiki-floodway-and-spillway</p>	<p>\$1,868,000</p> <p>Carry forward funding from 2023/24 to be approved.</p>	<p>All resource consents have been granted for the spillway.</p> <p>Civil construction works are well advanced.</p> <p>Fabrication of the radial gates has commenced.</p> <p>Electrical components are underway.</p>	<p>Spillway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning underway March 2025. • Project complete 30 June 2025.

Project name and background	Budget Annual Plan 2024/25	Update	Milestones 2024/25
<p>Rangitāiki Stopbank Upgrades</p> <p>Various sections of the Rangitāiki River (24/25) and Rangitāiki Drainage Scheme (25/26) stopbanks require upgrading to maintain drainage levels of service including provision for climate change. Stopbank work to maintain agreed standard of protection.</p> <p>Additional budget provision for construction in 2025/26.</p>	<p>\$1,060,000</p>	<p>Preliminary design complete.</p> <p>Detailed design about to commence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction completed by 30 June 2025.
<p>Tarawera River Stopbank</p> <p>Various sections of the Tarawera River stopbanks from Braemar Rd to Thornton Rd require upgrading to achieve the 1% AEP level of service.</p> <p>The focus for 2023/24 was on completing the designs required for the left bank and commencing the construction of upgrading works.</p> <p>Focus for 24/25 is to complete the left bank works and the undertake the require right bank works.</p>	<p>\$1,272,000</p> <p>Carry forward funding from 2023/24 to be approved.</p>	<p>Two sections let for upgrade works on the left bank. One section was completed. Second section mostly complete but work halted due to winter weather. Works will restart during 2024/25.</p> <p>Resource consent required for all sections adjacent to wetland areas. Consenting process underway.</p> <p>Preliminary designs complete for remaining left bank and right bank areas.</p> <p>Detailed design underway for all remaining sections.</p> <p>Geotechnical investigation underway for an identified seepage area.</p>	<p>Tarawera Left Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing consultation with affected parties. Construction completed by 30 June 2025. <p>Tarawera Right Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed design complete by December 2024. Ongoing consultation with affected parties. Construction to commence in sections as detailed design completed.

Project name and background	Budget Annual Plan 2024/25	Update	Milestones 2024/25
<p>Rangitāiki Tarawera Fish Passage</p> <p>This project involves upgrading fish passage through the replacement of floodgates or the installation of alternative fish passage.</p>	<p>\$21,000</p>	<p>Scoping and planning work underway.</p>	<p>Fish passage improvements implemented by 30 June 2025.</p>

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

Maintenance Programme 2024-2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme maintenance work programme for 2024-2025

Maintenance work programme

Maintenance works comprise activities that ensure the drainage, pumping and river flood protection networks are operational and providing the agreed level of service. These activities are programmed through the Rivers and Drainage Asset Management Plan, considering asset lifecycles, and maintenance and inspection schedules. Maintenance programme budgets are set during the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan processes.

Scheme maintenance work includes:

- Pump stations - operation, weed clearance, inspections and maintenance.
- Culverts and floodgates - inspections and maintenance.
- Stopbanks - inspections, maintenance, repairs and pest control.
- River maintenance - pest plant control, vegetation maintenance, gravel beach shaping, overflow depressions and habitat enhancement.
- Erosion control - rock refurbishment, edge planting, trenched willows, willow and vegetation maintenance.
- Annual flood damage repairs and flood response activities.
- Repairs to defects identified through asset condition inspections and assessments.

Key projects in 2024-2025:

- Upper Rangitāiki River gravel beaches have been assessed. De-armouring and overflow depression maintenance works are in the planning stages and will be underway this summer.
- Reid's Central Canal rock replenishment: Stage 4 to take place in December/January.
- Rangitāiki River, Eruera's tree removal from the toe of stopbank (identified asset defect): Next stage will be the removal of another 70 metres of trees.
- Working with our Biosecurity team with the ongoing control of pest plants including Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*).
- Scheme wide collaboration with iwi and hapū on work planned in their rohe.
- Native planting sites have been completed in conjunction with landowners and the community on the Horomanga riverbanks. 2000 plants were planted in August with more sites programmed for next planting season.
- Mechanical willow and vegetation management in the upper Rangitāiki and Whirinaki Rivers is in progress.
- The Tarawera, Rangitāiki and Horomanga Rivers have comprehensively inspected, and the required maintenance works are being assessed. Sites on the Whirinaki and Tarawera Rivers have been estimated and works will begin in October.

- Implementing the objectives of the Rangitāiki River Forum, contained within their river document [Te Ara Whānui o Rangitāiki Pathways of the Rangitāiki](#). Specifically, objectives 1 and 2 relating to protecting tuna (including enhancement and restoration of their habitat and migration paths) and creating, protecting and enhancing habitats that support indigenous species; and objective 7 relating to respecting the naturalness of the river landscape. Work includes fish passage through structures, habitat enhancement and native plantings.



24/25 Maintenance areas Rangitāiki River



Willow maintenance Rangitāiki River

Maintenance programme budget 2024-2025

A budget summary table for the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme maintenance programme is shown below. The annual budget figures include operational costs only and exclude non-operational costs (e.g. debt servicing and infrastructural asset insurance).

Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Maintenance Works Programme Budget 2024-2025		
General		Annual Budget
	Pest control, rubbish disposal & inspections	\$20,100
	Asset defect repairs	\$100,000
Rangitāiki River		
	Lower Rangitāiki River (Mouth to Matahina)	\$510,900
	Upper Rangitāiki River and Tributaries	\$703,300
Tarawera River		
	Mouth to Kawerau	\$113,000
Tributary Canals		
	Major canals, pump station and floodgates	\$65,800
Annual Flood Damage		
	Annual Flood Damage Repair Allowance	\$251,300
Rangitāiki-Tarawera Scheme Total		\$1,764,400

Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Toi Moana

Statement of revenue and expense: Rangitaiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2024

	Year to date		Variance		Variance Comments	2024/25
Annual Plan Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	\$	Variance indicator		Budget
	\$000					\$000

Operating revenue by class

1	General rates	467	467	467	(0)	Lower		779
2	Targeted rates	5,123	5,123	5,123	0	Higher		5,738
3	External interest income	5	5	46	41	Higher	Higher interest rate than forecasted.	0
4	Other revenue	101	101	186	85	Higher		103
5	Fees and charges	14	14	0	(14)	Lower		14
6	Investment income	629	629	629	0	-		900
7	Total revenue	6,338	6,338	6,450	112	Higher		7,534

Operating expenditure by class

9	Administration expenses	4	4	8	4	Higher	Ricardo pumpstation monitoring costs	4
10	Grants and subsidies	0	0	3	3	Higher	Annual Poplar/Willow Research contribution	3
11	Other expenses	576	576	589	13	Higher		660
12	Contract work	902	902	1,049	147	Higher		1,243
13	Revaluation and asset disposal loss	0	0	2,695	2,695	Higher	Revaluation adjustments	
14	Depreciation and Amortisation	440	440	522	82	Higher		568
	Subtotal - expenditure	1,922	1,922	4,866	2,944	Higher		2,478
15	Net overhead charges and recoveries	2,791	2,791	2,753	(38)	Lower	Interest on the loans was lower due to reduced capital spend	3418
16	Total operating expenditure	4,713	4,713	7,619	2,906	Higher		5,896
17	Total operating surplus (deficit)	1,625	1,625	(1,169)	(2,794)			1,638

Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Toi Moana

Statement of revenue and expense: Rangitaiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2024

	Year to date		Variance		Variance Comments	2024/25
	Annual Plan Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	\$		Variance indicator
						\$000
Capital revenue by class						
18 Capital funding	2,049	2,049	1,901	(148)	Lower	Kānoa funding received for Rangitāiki floodway project
19 Total capital revenue	2,049	2,049	1,901	(148)	Lower	
20 Total surplus (deficit)	3,674	3,674	732	(2,941)		
Capital expenditure by project						
21 Rangitaiki Floodway	5,300	6,750	5,104	(1,646)	Lower	Contractor delays. Carry forward request pending. 1,868
22 Rangitaiki Tarawera Capital Renewal	0	0	131	131	Higher	
23 Rangitaiki Tarawera Flood Damage Repairs	0	0	80	80	Higher	
24 Rangitaiki Floodwalls	0	1,950	1,192	(758)	Lower	
25 Rangitaiki River (Stopbank upgrade)	0	2,720	3,166	446	Higher	1,060
26 Tarawera stopbank upgrade	0	0	470	470	Higher	
27 Tarawera stopbank construction	397	1,027	31	(996)	Lower	Council approved combining Tarawera stopbank projects. Carry forward request pending. 1,272
28 Rangitaiki Tarawera pump electronics	36	36	0	(36)	Lower	
29 Rangitāiki fish passages	0	0	0	0		21
30 Rangitaiki Tarawera unplanned capital	0	0	70	70	Higher	
31 ORC (Old Rangitaiki Canal)	0	1,750	2,301	551	Higher	Council approved bringing forward funding.
32 Total capital expenditure	5,733	14,233	12,544	(1,688)		4,220

Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Toi Moana

Statement of revenue and expense: Rangitaiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2024

	Year to date		Variance		Variance Comments	2024/25
	Annual Plan Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	\$		Variance indicator
	\$000					\$000
Reserves		Opening Balance 01/07/2023	Movement	Closing Balance 30/06/2024		
		\$000	\$000	\$000		
33 Flood Damage Reserves		818	261	1,079		Funds available
34 Asset Replacement Reserves		(5,068)	(1,718)	(6,786)		Reserve overdrawn
35 Works Reserve		2,968	1,308	4,275		Funds available
		(1,283)	(149)	(1,432)		
Internal Loans		Opening Balance 1/07/2023	Movement	Closing Balance 30/06/2024		
		\$000	\$000	\$000		
36 Internal Loans		40,575	8,343	48,918		
Asset Value		Opening Balance 1/07/2023	Movement	Closing Balance 01/07/2024		
		\$000	\$000	\$000		
37 Asset valuation		139,025	35,162	174,187		

Report To: Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting Date: 22 September 2024

Report Writer: Nicola Green, Principal Advisor, Natural Resources Policy

Purpose: To outline draft changes to provisions, including rules affecting the Scheme, and prepare the group for the feedback period

Draft policies and rules affecting the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme

Executive Summary

Toi Moana Bay of Plenty has some significant local freshwater management issues that require attention. Flood protection and enabling the benefits of economic activities associated with land and water use, including primary production, are also very important for the region. Council has been working on freshwater management solutions for some time.

Council will soon release a draft change to the Regional Natural Resources Plan¹, and a discussion document about options for reducing diffuse contaminants from farming, for targeted stakeholder feedback. Some changes would affect the management of discharges from the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme (RTRS) and Rangitāiki Community Pump Schemes (RCPS).

Discharge of contaminants from farming, the RTRS, RCPS and industry cumulatively have adverse effects on ecosystems, tangata whenua and community values in some tributaries, and the lower reaches of Rangitāiki River and Tarawera River. As part of the package to address these effects, the draft plan change proposes a controlled activity discharge rule that would require a consent for RTRS and RCPS discharges, with no limited or public notification. A scheme management plan would be required that would demonstrate how reasonably practicable steps would be taken to reduce adverse effects.

It is recommended that RTRS advisory group considers these changes and prepares to provide feedback during the November - December 2024 feedback period.

¹ Subject to upcoming Council decisions to confirm this.

1. Introduction

Toi Moana Bay of Plenty has some healthy rivers, lakes and estuaries, as well as some significant local issues that require attention. Flood protection, and enabling the benefits of economic activities associated with land and water use, including primary production, are also very important for the region.

Council will soon release a draft change to the Regional Natural Resources Plan², and a discussion document about options for reducing contaminants from farming, for targeted stakeholder feedback. This will enable tangata whenua and key stakeholders to provide feedback before council reaches a view on which policy approaches to advance, and when and whether to formally notify a proposed plan change, which will then go through its full plan change process (with formal submissions and hearings).

Draft changes for water quality focus on maintaining good water quality, halting degrading trends, and turning around existing degradation. The draft particularly seeks to address clearly observed impacts on rivers, lakes, estuaries and community values like swimming or shellfish gathering that occur in some catchments.

The draft plan change includes proposed changes that would affect the management of discharges from the Rangitāiki Tarawera Rivers Scheme (RTRS) and the 36 Rangitāiki Community Pumping Schemes (RCPS), including operation, maintenance, and upgrade activities. These are all managed by Council. This paper provides an introduction to some of the changes, and these will be explained and discussed at the meeting. The advisory group will have an opportunity to provide feedback on this in writing when the draft is released, and/or may wish to provide feedback via primary sector organisations.

1.1 Background

Bay of Plenty Regional Council must review regional plans every 10 years and must implement legislation and operative national policy direction. Our land and water policies and rules are overdue for review and Council has been working on this for some time. Last year, we carried out community engagement about early draft thinking, and feedback has informed development of a draft plan change. Council intends to release the draft plan change in early November, for feedback during November and December. We will particularly seek feedback from tangata whenua, relevant government ministries, district councils (as required under the RMA), and also key stakeholders.

Addressing contaminant losses from farming is a real challenge. Rather than including a draft rule set to reduce contaminants from pastoral, horticultural and arable land use, a discussion document about options will be released for feedback alongside the draft plan change. That aspect will not be covered at this advisory group meeting.

The draft plan change will also include new rules wastewater network discharge consents, which will be applicable for both Rangitāiki and Tarawera

² Subject to upcoming Council decisions to confirm this.

Catchments. These seek a best practicable option approach to improving discharge quality.

Council is very aware that Government is signalling changes to national policy direction for freshwater, and also that the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group has initiated work on their river document. Council will keep abreast of updates, so that we can adjust the draft plan change as and when needed.

Council is focused on what is 'best for the Bay of Plenty' and addressing real freshwater issues for the region.

2. **Freshwater management issues in the Rangitāiki and Tarawera Freshwater Management Unit catchments**

The [Rangitāiki FMU and Tarawera FMU](#) story documents³, released last year for community engagement, summarise land and water use in the catchment, as well as significant water quality issues. Farming (pastoral, arable and horticulture) land use is a significant contributor to the regional economy and to the local community. In the lower catchments, farming relies on the continued operation of an effective land drainage scheme. The large mainstem rivers have reasonable water quality. Still, there some issues to address, as summarised here:

Lowland, heavily modified tributaries have degraded water quality, ecosystem health, cultural values and natural character. While these have not been monitored over the long term, short-term monitoring illustrates they are characterised by generally high nutrient levels, high turbidity, extreme levels of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) both high and low, elevated temperatures, and relatively low invertebrate abundance and diversity. Nitrate and ammonia increase with rainfall. Habitat features that support ecological health are generally absent. The cause is primarily land drainage, which enables productive land uses, and contaminant loads from surrounding rural land uses, as well as some point sources (industrial and wastewater). The Lower Rangitāiki and Tarawera Rivers are heavily modified for flood protection, which remains very important.

Industrial and municipal uses and associated point source and diffuse discharges have impacted water quality of the Tarawera River and continue to do so although there has been significant progressive improvement.

Wetlands in the lowlands are perched above surrounding drained land and at high risk of degradation as they lose their connection to the river.

Wetlands in the lowlands have become more vulnerable as the ground of the Rangitāiki Plains has lowered and many of them have become 'perched'. Water now needs to be actively pumped into and/or contained within six wetlands to increase their water levels and maintain their health. The main natural wetlands remaining are Lake Pūpūwharau, Lake Tahuna, Lake Tamarenuī, Tumurau Lagoon, Awakaponga Wetlands, Awakaponga Stream, Awaiti Wetlands, Bregman's Lagoon, Tarawera Cut, Matatā Coastal Lagoon, Matuku wetlands, Kawerau Road wetland,

³ <https://www.boprc.govt.nz/environment/fresh-water/updating-regional-fresh-water-rules/>

Lake Tahuna, Mangaone Two, and Mangaone Lake. A number of these have significant cultural and ecological values.

Modelling indicates that *E. coli* in the Rangitāiki Plains and pastoral areas further up the catchment need to be reduced to arrest monitored worsening *E. coli* concentration trends. *E. coli* monitoring in the main stem of the Rangitāiki and Tarawera rivers indicates they are reasonably safe for human contact. If the tributaries across the plains (including land drainage canals) are to be reasonably safe for human contact, then the *E. coli* reduction would need to be substantial (40-60%). However, at this stage, we understand there are not significant recreation or human contact values in these tributaries.

A reduction of nitrogen (ammonia in particular) will be required to make a start on restoring ecosystem health (such as sensitive species survival), along with habitat improvement over time in degraded land drainage canals. Some monitored sites do show some improving nitrogen trends which is good. The draft changes set a long term vision for these catchments, and set first steps on the ladder of change to halt degradation and start to achieve improvements.

3. **Rangitāiki Tarawera River Scheme and Rangitāiki Community Pump Scheme discharges**

The RTRS and RCPS include a network of rivers and drains. The RTRS assets are owned and operated by Council's Rivers and Drainage Team, whereas the 36 RCPS are owned by landowners/community members but managed by Council. The distinction between rivers and drains is important in terms of how rules apply in the operative Plan and the draft Plan changes.

Land Drainage Canals are listed in the operative Plan, and in the draft Plan change (Attachment 1). These are rivers (modified water courses) and therefore we must set objectives and water quality targets to provide for values like habitat for indigenous freshwater species, ecosystem health, habitats of trout, human contact and mahinga kai values.

Drains are not rivers. They do not need objectives and targets for these values. However, the water quality of water discharging into drains, and subsequently discharging from drains into rivers and estuaries requires authorisation under the regional plan. Under the operative regional plan, these are permitted activities subject to meeting some conditions.

During our review and research for the plan change, we have found:

- Farming, and dairy farming in particular, in the RTRS and RCPS area is a significant contributor of nitrogen and faecal contaminants to lowland tributaries of the Rangitāiki and Tarawera catchments. Point source discharges also contribute.
- Council can only allow a discharge as a permitted activity if it can "be satisfied" that certain effects stated in the RMA are unlikely to arise in receiving waters. It is our view this test is unlikely to be able to be met, given observed effects on water quality and aquatic life in highly modified lowland watercourses.

- Tangata whenua have strongly expressed their concern about the state of the Tarawera River and canals on the Rangitāiki Plains for some time, and their desire to be involved in freshwater management.
- Community engagement to date has identified a more widely held view that the state of the lowland tributaries and rivers, ecosystem health, water quality, mahinga kai and natural character values should be improved.
- Council's Rivers and Drainage team is the RTRS owner and operator, and the RCPS operator. They have limited ability to make water quality improvements to the assets owned and operated by them, or to implement mitigation measures on land they do not own. Also, there is limited ability within their statutory drainage functions to address the source, i.e., the quality of water discharging into the schemes from contributing farms.
- Options that might be possible include treatment devices, habitat restoration, riparian setbacks in some locations, carrying out drain management in a way that minimises contaminant discharges, installing and operating pumps in a way that reduces concentration or loads, and the like.
- The RTRS and RCPS must continue to operate effectively for land use to continue.
- There is real concern that consenting processes involving extensive technical assessments and lengthy RMA processes involving notification (submitters, hearings, potentially court proceedings) will be expensive and yet the options available to the scheme owner / operator to make improvements or implement practicable mitigation options are very limited. In these circumstances, it is appropriate that investment is focussed on planning and delivering improvements to the extent practicable, so the consent process needs to be streamlined.

4. **Draft plan change**

The draft plan change proposes the following in relation to land drainage scheme and other farm drain discharges:

- Controlled Activity status for existing land drainage scheme (including RTRS) and community drainage network (including RCPS) discharges, so the consent cannot be declined, but conditions of consent can be set. This recognises the existing schemes must continue to operate.
- It is anticipated that one consent would be required for the RTRS and one or more combined consents for the RCPS.
- The application for consent must be accompanied by a scheme management plan that:
 - identifies adverse effects and commits to reasonably practicable options to make improvements to these across time.

- is developed in consultation with tangata whenua and affected landowners, so their views are considered from the outset.
- The rule precludes limited or public notification, making the consent process simpler and less expensive. Council will set out the justification for this, relying on meaningful tangata whenua involvement in the scheme management plan.
- Policies:
 - set an expectation of improvements over time.
 - enable a best practicable option approach, which recognises economic/affordability and feasibility constraints.
 - expect effects of climate change, including sea level rise and changing pattern of rainfall, to be taken in to account.
- Gravity drained farm drain discharges remain a permitted activity, with conditions.
- New pumped drain discharges require consent (per the above, as a controlled activity when part of the RTRS or RCPS).

Generally, rules relating to maintenance activities within drains and land drainage canals in the RTRS and RCPS retain the same activity status as current. Conditions require management approaches to minimise discharge of sediment and nutrients, operations in accordance with a code of practice, and a consent will be required for activities in a Source Water Risk Management Area 1 or 2 (these are areas close to large drinking water supply takes).

5. **Next Steps**

1. The advisory group will be notified when the draft plan change and discussion document about farming are released.
2. The group can provide detailed feedback directly or via a primary sector organisation.
3. We are working with primary sector organisations to find a streamlined way to hold discussions with farming groups about options in the discussion document.
4. Farmers will be encouraged to get their feedback to their sector organisations who will provide us feedback in writing.

6. **Recommendations**

1. Receive the report and presentation.
2. Consider implications.
3. Prepare for release of the draft plan change and discussion document, and the opportunity to provide detailed feedback in writing.

Attachment 1: Rivers that are Land Drainage Canals in the Rangitāiki-Tarawera River Scheme

Modified Watercourses with ecological values, Schedule 3, Operative Regional Natural Resources Plan

Awaiti Canal
 Omeheu Canal
 Awakaponga Canal and Stream
 Waikamihi Stream
 Mangaone Stream
 Western Drain
 Ngakauroa Drain/Stream
 Te Rahu Canal
 Otarere Drain/Stream
 Orini Canal (to be added)
 Reid's Central Canal

Definitions in the operative Regional Natural Resources Plan

<p>River: Means a continually or intermittently flowing body of fresh water; and includes a stream and modified watercourse; but does not include any artificial watercourse (including an irrigation canal, water supply race, canal for the supply of water for electricity power generation, and farm drainage canal). Note: 'River' includes intermittent watercourses, but excludes ephemeral flowpaths.</p>	<p>Modified watercourse: a watercourse that meets any of following criteria</p> <p>(a) Is a river or stream that has been channelled or diverted.</p> <p>(b) Is a Land Drainage Canal (as defined in this regional plan) constructed through a wetland or swamp, that generally follows the path of a historic natural watercourse or reasonably defined natural drainage channel.</p> <p>(c) Is a watercourse that has a natural headwater of either a channel or spring, and generally follows the path of a historic natural watercourse or reasonably defined natural drainage channel.</p> <p>(d) Is the oxbow of a diverted river.</p>	<p>Land Drainage Canal - a modified watercourse that is part of a land drainage scheme. For the purposes of this regional plan the term 'Land Drainage Canal' is limited to the following:</p> <p>(a) Rangitāiki Plains - Awaiti Canal, Omeheu Canal, Awakaponga Canal and Drain, Waikamihi Stream, Mangaone Stream, Western Drain, Ngakauroa Drain/Stream, Te Rahu Canal, Otarere Drain/Stream, Orini Canal, Reid's Central Canal.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Any other canal or drain that is within a land drainage scheme is included in the term 'Drain'</p>
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	<p>Intermittent Watercourse - A watercourse that:</p> <p>(a) Flows for most of the year or is only dry for short periods of the year, and during such dry periods has stable pools or 'wet patches'; and</p> <p>(b) Has a defined water channel and banks; and (c) Connects with a permanently flowing surface water body; and</p> <p>(d) Provides habitat for aquatic flora and/or fauna species</p>	
<p>Ephemeral flowpath -is where any one of the following criteria are met:</p> <p>(a) The flow path is an entrenched dry gully greater than 1 metre deep.</p> <p>(b) There is clear evidence of a channel within the valley system where overland flow occurs from time to time.</p> <p>(c) There is clear evidence of erosion (such as gullying or headward gully erosion) associated with short term water flow from time to time within the valley system.</p> <p>An ephemeral flowpath excludes a valley that does not show any evidence of overland flow channels, or erosion as a result of overland flow</p>		
<p>Artificial water course</p> <p>A watercourse which meets the following criteria:</p> <p>(a) Is not a natural or modified watercourse, and</p> <p>(b) Is a completely human-made channel along which water would not naturally flow.</p> <p>Includes irrigation canals, water supply race, canals for the supply of water for electricity power generation, farm drains and other drains (e.g. roadside drains).</p> <p>Excludes Land Drainage Canals</p>	<p>Drain: an artificial watercourse used for land drainage purposes, excluding Land Drainage Canals. Also refer to the definitions of Farm drain and Roadside drain</p>	
	<p>Farm Drain: an artificial watercourse on production land that is used for land drainage purpose</p>	

Report To: Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting Date: 11 September 2024

Report Writer: Mark Townsend

Purpose: To update the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group with gravel management activity in the scheme

1. Introduction

Gravel management in the Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme currently occurs in the Rangitāiki River upstream of Matahina Dam. No extraction is carried out in the reaches below Matahina, or in the Tarawera River.

2. Gravel Management Data

2.1 Horomanga River – Gravel Extraction 2017-2024

Year	Quantity Allocated m ³	Quantity Extracted m ³
2017/18	12,500	0
2018/19	71,000	63,473
2019/20	45,000	23,774
2020/21	81,000	52,542
2021/22	20,000	19,629
2022/23	0	0
2023/24	0	0

Extraction is supported by Council in sections of the Horomanga River. Based on recorded gravel extractions, and surveys, the calculated inflow of gravel since 2001 has averaged only 3,700 m³ per year. However, the riverbed is still severely perched over the four-kilometre reach above Galatea Road.

Timberlands Limited are not currently extracting from the Horomanga River for forestry roading. Their main supply is now Kopuriki Stream gravel. In April Councillor Campbell, Council staff, and Ngāti Manawa met to discuss gravel extraction processes and opportunities. As a follow up to that conversation Ngāti Manawa are currently in discussions with a local contractor about sustainable gravel extraction operations on the Horomanga River.

Over the past 6 months Whakatāne District Council (WDC) have undertaken permitted extractions (under 100m³) from beneath Galatea bridges.

WDC are looking at applying for a resource consent to extract gravel as and when required to ensure bridges and transportation routes are not negatively impacted by the build-up of gravel.

2.2 Kopuriki Stream - Gravel Extraction 2019-2024

Year	Quantity Allocated m ³	Quantity Extracted m ³
2019/20	6,000	0
2020/21	22,000	5,444
2021/22	30,000	21,355
2022/23	23,000	14,182
2023/24	4,000	135
2024/25	4,000	0

In 2020 gravel extractions were approved for the Kopuriki Stream. Significant resources exist within the stream floodway. Extraction is focused on the lower reaches of the stream (i.e. cross-sections 1 to 4) and cross-sections 6 and 7, where bed levels are aggrading, and large volumes have been gained over recent years.

The survey team undertook a bed survey in July. The analysis of this information will inform future allocations.

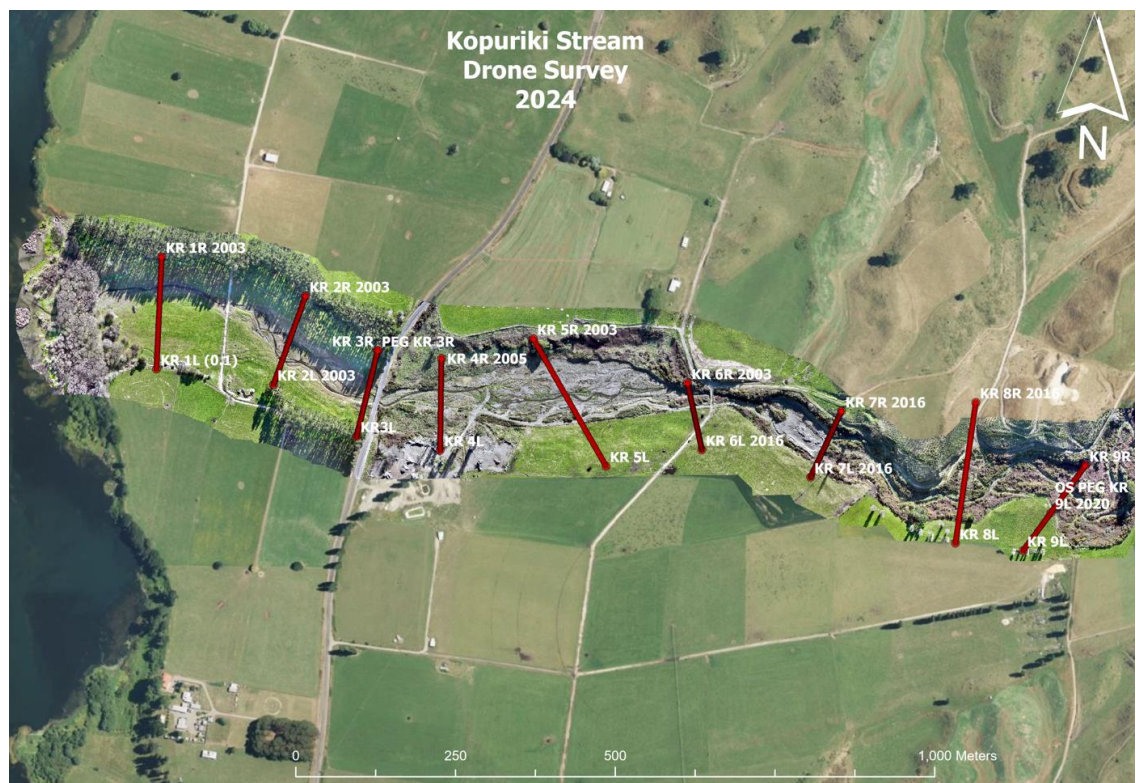


Fig 1 - Kopuriki Stream - bed survey benchmarks July 2024

2.3 Ruarepuae Stream (Jones Drywash), Mangamate and Ohutu Streams - Gravel Extraction

There is currently no extraction in the Mangamate and Ohutu streams and staff are comfortable with this. These two streams appear to be steep enough to transport significant quantities of gravel right through the system to the Horomanga River. Gravel continues to move down to the Jones Drywash area to the Ruarepuae Stream due to large upstream slips in heavy rain events. This dynamic situation needs to be closely monitored to avoid significant gravel build-up that may cause flooding or infrastructure damage.

Ruarepuae Stream – Gravel Extraction 2024

Year	Quantity Allocated m ³	Quantity Extracted m ³
2023/24	8,000	5,284

In December 2023 and early 2024 some gravel extraction has been approved from the Ruarepuae Stream. Previous extractions took place prior to 2013. The extraction will aid the aggradation that is present in some areas of the stream. The survey team have also recently completed a bed survey of the Ruarepuae to inform future extraction analysis.

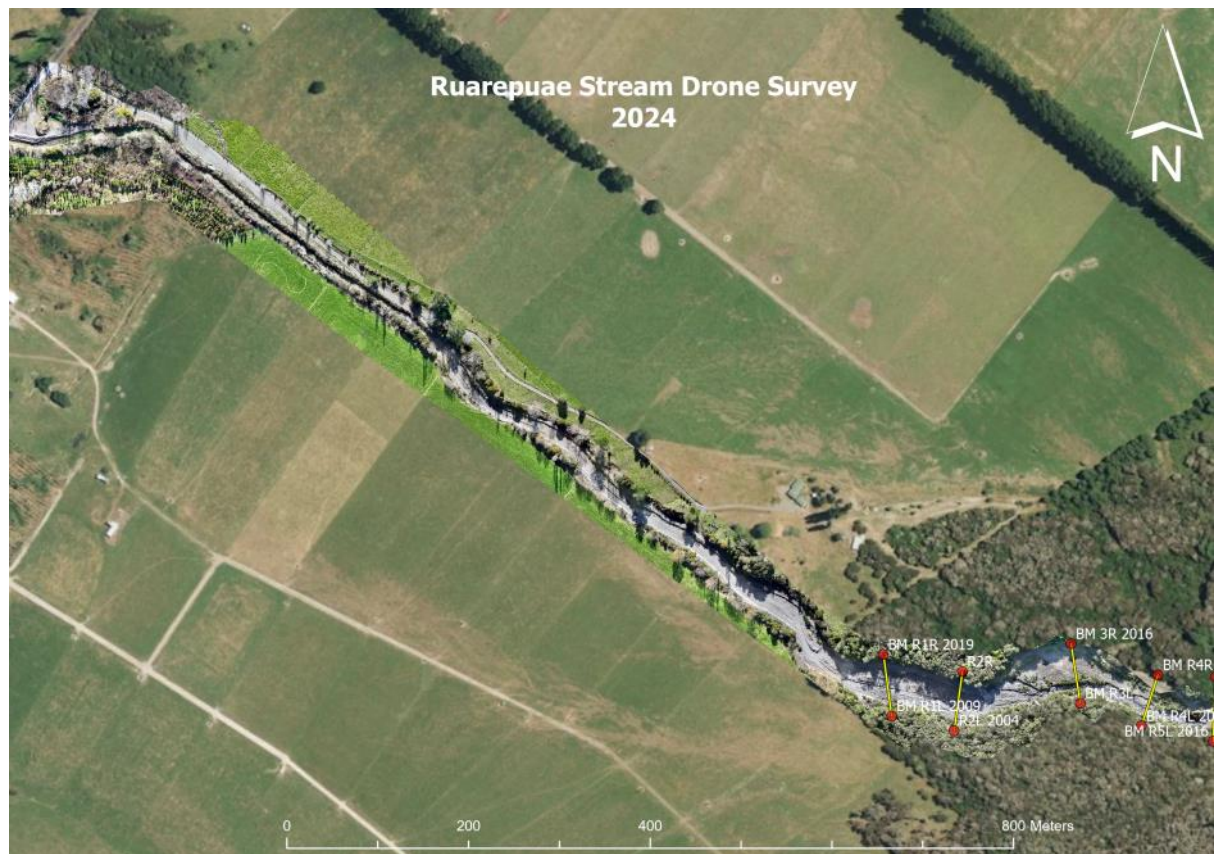


Fig 2 - Ruarepuae Stream - bed survey benchmarks July 2024

3. **Lake Āniwaniwa**

In May a resource consent application from Southern Generation Partnership Limited to remove gravel and debris from Lake Āniwaniwa, was granted with conditions. The purpose of the consent is to authorise and set conditions for the gravel extraction, and disturbance to the bed associated with gravel, sediment, and vegetation extraction from the bed of the Rangitāiki River and Lake Āniwaniwa to reduce flooding of land upstream.

The consent provides for:

- Gravel extraction works adjacent to 59 Kopuriki Road, Galatea,
- Debris island removal works adjacent to 3848 Galatea Road, Galatea
- Extraction volume is capped at 15,000m³

4. **Gravel Extraction Fee**

In conjunction with the Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034 consultation process, Regional Council consulted on a proposed increase to its gravel management fee through the Fees and Charges Policy.

Following consideration of submissions on the proposed fee increase the Council decided not to amend the fee for 2024/25.

5. **Next Steps**

Gravel extraction opportunities will continue to be explored for those rivers and streams that would benefit from its removal.

Mark Townsend
Engineering Manager



Report To: Rangitāiki-Tarawera Rivers Scheme Advisory Group

Meeting Date: 11 September 2024

Report Writer: Kirsty Brown, Rivers and Drainage Assets Manager

General Business

Summary

An internal review of the scheme's infrastructure insurance is underway, exploring cost-reduction options like removing low-risk assets and increasing the deductible. Aon also recommended the BOPLASS Insurance Group review the outdated sub-loss limit.

Infrastructure Insurance Review

In case of a major natural disaster, the central government will cover up to 60% of repair costs for essential infrastructure, with the Regional Council covering the remaining 40% through flood damage reserves and infrastructure insurance. A 2021/22 review, triggered by rising insurance premiums, found current insurance the most cost-effective option for flood losses but stressed the need for ongoing monitoring.

At the March 2024 advisory group meeting, the draft budgets highlighted insurance premium increases as a cost driver.

An internal review is now exploring potential options to reduce insurance costs, including:

- Removing low-risk assets from the insurance schedule.
- Increasing the deductible.
- Removing high-risk but low-value assets.

These options, with confirmed data, will be presented at the March 2025 meeting. Feedback from river scheme advisory groups will guide further research into the feasibility, risks, consequences, and benefits of these options.

Additionally, Aon has recommended to the BOPLASS Insurance Group that the current sub-loss limit is outdated, suggesting a review. The total loss coverage for the BOPLASS group is \$500M, but Regional Council has a sub-loss limit of \$60M. This means BOPRC can only claim up to \$24M per event (40% of \$60M). Further information will be provided when available.

