

# Report to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee 14 August 2015 – To be received

**File No:** 03 04 14, 23 10 09  
**Date:** 27 July 2015  
**To:** Chief Executive Officer  
**From:** Director Science and Strategy  
**Subject:** **Tangata Whenua Engagement**  
**Section** A (Committee has delegated authority to receive the report)

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee on Tāngata Whenua Engagement activities and plans for the forthcoming phases of the Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/ Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai project.

## Recommendation:

That the report **Tangata Whenua Engagement** (Doc # 3454017 dated 27 July 2015) be received for information.

## Background

The Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/ Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai project is undertaking a collaborative process within a co-management arrangement between the council and iwi. The co-management framework for the project follows the agreement outlined in the individual Joint Management Agreements between council and iwi. These agreements are further reinforced by a Partnership Charter between all the parties to reflect the collective approach to addressing the adverse effects of the four contaminants on the Waikato and Waipa rivers and their catchments.

The establishment of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) reflects the commitment by council and iwi to work with stakeholders to seek and develop workable solutions to restore and protect the Waikato and Waipa River catchment.

## Engagement

The latter phases of the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora (HRWO) project include the modelling outputs and assessments and the CSG's preferred toolkit of policy options which will be significant to the focus of engagement for river iwi. River iwi are currently planning engagement with tāngata whenua in their rohe and when this will be undertaken. River iwi staff are working closely with the recently appointed Iwi Technical Advisor to support them also in their engagement activities.

River iwi have different means of engagement relevant to their rohe and in many instances have already sought guidance and feedback as part of developing their environmental

management plans and fisheries plans – feedback that is relevant to the HRWO project with regard to iwi aspirations and perspectives. It is thought that once hui or meeting dates are finalised that those dates will be provided to the CSG for their information.

Below is a summary of feedback to date with River Iwi in their respective rohe. Additionally an overview of engagement activities for this next phase of the project is provided for each.

## **Waikato Tainui**

Since the inception of the HRWO project various forms of engagement, including the extent of reach, have been undertaken. Engagement has generally been added to existing hui or existing means of communication. Examples include the:

- *Waikato Raupatu River Trust Environmental Forum* hui held last year in March where a number of key kaitiaki and environmental managers for the Waikato-Tainui rohe were in attendance. HRWO was presented along with other environmental kaupapa.
- *Waikato-Tainui Te Hokioi* tribal newspaper which is distributed to 8,000 Waikato-Tainui households and shared via the tribal facebook page and website. An article in November last year presented the HRWO project, on both the significance to Waikato-Tainui and being a partner on the project. Tribal members were encouraged to visit the WRC website for more information and to sign up for the latest updates.
- *Koroneihana* held at Turangawaewae annually which is an open invitation to join and to celebrate the unique and important customs and traditions of Kīngitanga and Māori. People from not just Waikato Tainui but the rest of Aotearoa and around the world come together to remember those who have passed, and discuss important local, national and international issues of the day. Last year was an opportunity to engage with tāngata whenua from all over the region and from both young and old about the project and to gather their values of what was most important to them about the awa.
- *Te Taniwha o Waikato* is a collective of Port Waikato marae. A hui was held earlier this year where the HRWO project was presented.

A consistent theme of feedback is the support of those at each of the hui/events to use the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan and in particular the freshwater chapter as the basis of engagement in the HRWO project. Waikato-Tainui whānau, hapū and marae played a significant role in the development of the Environmental Plan, with water quality being the most heavily work-shopped topic in the plan. Plans for the next phase include continued use of diverse engagement methods as above including this year's Koroneihana in August.

## **Te Arawa River Iwi Trust**

Much discussion has been had about the HRWO project at various hui throughout the rohe. For example last year in June as part of the Tuhourangi Memorial Day hui hosted by the Tuhourangi Tribal Authority a presentation on the HRWO project was made to tribal members. Presentations and discussions have also been held to coincide with existing hui such as runanga and landblock trust meetings.

Coinciding with the HRWO project process, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) have also been deeply involved in engaging with iwi as part of the development of their recently launched environmental management plan and fisheries plan. Of note is that both plans have to be taken into account by councils in shaping policy planning processes. In aligning with the HRWO project the environmental management plan and fisheries plan represent Te Arawa River Iwi aspirations as part of their iwi engagement processes. In addition, TARIT has begun the process of mapping culturally significant sites, mahinga kai and swimming areas within the region as guidance for planning processes.

Future engagement activities will continue discussions at landblock trust meetings. Iwi shareholders are particularly interested in the property level limits and targets for contaminants.

### **Maniapoto Māori Trust Board**

Updates on the progress of the HRWO project have continually been provided at established formal hui. For example this year at the trust board's hui-a- tau (annual meeting) an update was provided on the HRWO project. Updates have also been provided through various hui-a-iwi, where board staff present to iwi at different marae in the rohe.

Alongside the HRWO project process was the drafting of the Maniapoto environmental management plan and fisheries plan. Maniapoto engagement was comprehensive and diverse and included a series of hui with various groups, community events, use of social media and online and written surveys. Other major projects include the Maniapoto Priorities for the Restoration of the Waipā River Catchment and the Waipā Catchment Plan. All projects have included intensive engagement activities that link well into the HRWO project.

Planning for forthcoming engagement events include presenting to:

- Te Mana Taiao, which is an environmental advisory group to the trust board
- Holding two hui a iwi in the rohe, and
- Discussing feedback from the three hui above to the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board.

HRWO project presentations will link in work iwi have already been involved in, particularly the Maniapoto Priorities for the Restoration of the Waipā River Catchment project and the Waipā Catchment Plan.

### **Raukawa Charitable Trust**

Discussion and updates of the HRWO project have continually occurred over the course of the project. Parallel to this process Raukawa whānau, hapū and marae have been considerably involved in the development of the recently launched Raukawa Environmental Management Plan. The Plan provides a statement of Raukawa values, experiences, and aspirations pertaining to the use and management of their environment. The Plan is also a proactive approach for Raukawa to engage in and shape: current and future policy, planning processes, and resource management decisions. In recent months Raukawa have also participated and contributed towards iwi leaders freshwater regional hui. Recent engagement with Raukawa with regard to the environment and freshwater particularly links in to the current process of the HRWO project ensuring Raukawa aspirations and perspectives are represented as comprehensive engagement with Raukawa whānau, hapū and marae has already been undertaken.

### **Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board**

Discussion and updates of the HRWO project have occurred over the course of the project with various entities including marae and economic authorities.

Tūwharetoa have developed a project plan outlining current and future engagement activities that align with each of the latter phases of the HRWO project. Details include:

- Regular meetings with the Awhina Group
- The formation of a marae working group representative of marae with interests in the Waikato River to provide guidance on matters relevant to the HRWO project
- Reporting back through the marae working group and directly to the marae
- Feedback and discussions with the Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board

## Next steps

The latter phases of the HRWO project are significant as the CSG have to make important decisions based on modelling outputs and assessments, and their preferred toolkit of policy options. The next steps over the following two to three months involve working with the Iwi Technical Advisor in supporting river iwi regarding the planning details of tangata whenua engagement in each respective rohe. There is potential to develop an engagement package for river iwi to use or amend particular aspects to suit their engagement requirements.

Written by:

Reviewed by:

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