

# Report to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee 19 June 2015 – To be received

**File No:** 03 04 14, 23 10 09  
**Date:** 20 May 2015  
**To:** Chief Executive Officer  
**From:** Independent CSG Chair and Director Science and Strategy  
**Subject:** **Collaborative Stakeholder Group progress report**  
**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 the progress of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Project.

## Recommendation:

That the report **Collaborative Stakeholder Group progress report** (Doc # 3405141 dated 20 May 2015) be received for information.

## Purpose of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group

The purpose of the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) is to:

- bring stakeholders together early to seek a common path forward
- act as the central channel for community involvement
- intensively review and understand the technical, social, cultural and economic complexity of the project
- inform and guide decision makers.

This report outlines how the CSG is bringing stakeholders together early to seek a common path forward.

The main features of the CSG process are:

- it is an intensive, facilitated process with monthly two-day workshops
- it works intensively with the Technical Leaders Group (TLG) to ensure cultural, environmental, economic and social knowledge contributes to the process
- twelve two-day workshops have been completed by the CSG.

## Progress to date

Since the last committee report two CSG workshops (CSG11 and CSG12) have been held.

## **Report on CSG11**

CSG11 was successfully held in Te Kauwhata on 23/24 April. It was hosted by the Environment/NGO representatives Al Fleming and Michelle Archer. The workshop included the following:

- Workshopping with river iwi staff and a representative from the Waikato River Authority (WRA) the scope of limit and target scenarios and what the Vision and Strategy could mean in practice for the four contaminants under consideration
- Introducing templates for S32 analysis and the CSG's recommendations report for the CSG to discuss and provide direction on. CSG will consider the plan change template at each workshop and agree what parts can be populated. It is about the need to undertake work in parallel to achieve the timeframe and not leave such matters toward the end of the process.
- Sharing CSG member experiences of involvement in other regions limit-setting processes and what these could mean for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora project
- Learning about the current situation for shallow lakes and what is already being done to address some of the long term issues.
- Receiving and discussing river iwi feedback on the working list of values and Policy Selection Criteria and determining the process for each of these to be finalised.
- Receiving an update on the Mātauranga Māori work and discussing the Integrated Assessment Framework with TLG members Antoine Coffin, Dr Liz Wedderburn (with TLG chair Dr Bryce Cooper in attendance).
- Hearing from the WRA and discussing the Waikato River Restoration Strategy.
- Setting the scope for scenarios to be modelled by discussing a suite of "strawman" draft narrative scenarios drawn together from the CSG work to date.
- Learning more about the Environment/NGO sector perspectives and context via the field trip and presentation from Fish and Game NZ's Environmental Manager.
- Working through an agenda and milestones setting exercise for the rest of the CSG workshop days in 2015.
- Receiving preliminary feedback from the intensive engagement events and providing direction to staff on the development of the full engagement report for consideration at CSG12.

### ***Additional CSG Meeting Dates Proposed***

Following the workshop session at CSG11 regarding the project timeline, milestones and agenda setting the need for additional meeting dates in 2015 was identified. An additional two day CSG workshop has been added to the calendar for 26/27 August 2015 (CSG15). The following dates for one day workshops have been proposed:

- 21 September 2015 – CSG Focus Session Day 1
- 13 October - CSG Focus Session Day 2
- 9 November - CSG Focus Session Day 3
- 26 February 2016 – CSG Focus Session Day 4
- 18 March 2016 – CSG Focus Session Day 5

### ***CSG11 Field Trip***

The CSG visited Lake Waikare and the pest fish capture and processing facility located there. Raymond Kumar, chair of the Ngaa Muka Development Trust, welcomed the CSG to Lake Waikare and spoke to its history, significance and the work underway around restoration activity. David Klee (Game Bird Manager, Fish & Game NZ) spoke to the CSG about the

programmes they have underway and how they work in collaboration with local iwi and the wider community. Following this Michael Duffy (Lower Waikato and West Coast Zone Manager, WRC) gave an overview of issues in the zone area and Bruno David (Senior Scientist, WRC) gave an overview of why koi carp and other pest fish are a serious problem in the lower Waikato River and shallow lakes. The WRC, in partnership with the WRA, Genesis Energy, Waikato-Tainui and the Waahi Whaanui Trust, have successfully trialled a special fish trap and 'digester' at Lake Waikare for removing pest fish and turning them into nutrient-rich potting mix, fluid and pellets. The group were shown the facility and the types of pest fish being caught, including koi carp, brown bullhead catfish and wild goldfish. Over dinner the CSG heard from Corina Jordan (Environmental Manager and freshwater ecologist with Fish & Game NZ) about her experiences of target and limit setting in other regions of New Zealand.

## **Report on CSG12**

CSG12 was held on June 4/5 near the outflow of the river from Lake Taupo. The workshop was hosted by Tūwharetoa and held at the Taupō Yacht Club, Taupō. The workshop included the following:

- Learning more about Tūwharetoa history, perspectives, current issues, tribal businesses and aspirations
- Presentation of information and discussion of sediment issues, influencers, sources, spatial variability and best ways to address them (mitigations)
- Receiving of information and discussion on how various industry Best Practice could be part of a plan change from four CSG members (Forestry, Dairy, Horticulture and Dry stock representatives)
- Discussion around possible policy options for sediment compared against the Policy Selection Criteria (PSC), including discussion around measuring and attribution issues for sediment in rivers and streams
- Receiving and consider feedback from community engagement period, particularly relating to FMUs and attributes
- Feedback from CSG members on the engagement undertaken in their respective sectors
- Receive further information and feedback from the TLG around attributes and attribute states. This was followed by vigorous discussion on the list of attributes and attribute bands in light of all input to date (including that from TLG and the community engagement period). The discussion is scheduled to continue at CSG13 in early July with the intent to confirm and recommend to the next meeting of the HRWO committee
- Receiving further input from TLG and have further detailed discussion on scenarios on the journey towards agreeing the first round of scenarios for modelling by TLG
- An update from the HRWO Committee co-chair Councillor Alan Livingstone. Co-chair Roger Pikia was also in attendance in the afternoon of day 2.

Specific outcomes from CSG12 include:

- A decision on the Policy Selection Criteria for committee endorsement
- A decision on FMU boundaries for river FMUs for committee endorsement
- A decision on the first round of scenarios for modelling by TLG for committee endorsement

## ***CSG12 Presentations and Field Trip***

The CSG were welcomed with a mihi whakatau by Dylan Tahau speaking on behalf of Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board. Also present were Georgina Te Heu Heu and Trustee Maria Nepia (HRWO committee member). The welcome was followed by three presentations.

Tūwharetoa CEO Topia Rameka gave the CSG an overview of the history of Tūwharetoa and the ancestral journey from the Te Arawa waka landing at Matata and the journey inland towards Tongariro. He also spoke about current happenings in the rohe including rural Māori land holdings and tribal aspirations. The tribe currently own 55% of all pastoral land, 99% of inland water and 60% of planted forest (and 40% of undeveloped land) in the area. They also have dairy and sheep and beef interests and well as having large tracts of native bush. He also spoke briefly to the history of tribal negotiations with the Crown and how Lake Taupo and some tributaries are managed as well as the tribes relationship with the Waikato River and the co-management space.

Grant Jackson (General Manager of Milk Supply, Miraka) spoke about who Miraka are and how the business started four years ago. Miraka is an independent whole milk powder processor, processing milk from 98 farms. It is majority Māori owned (81.5% Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board). He spoke to the values of the business and how they operate, including an overview of their mandatory and incentivised Farming Excellence Programme (best on farm practice model) which is being implemented alongside suppliers. The programme will be independently reviewed annually from the 2017 season. Grant spoke about Te Taiao (their environmental pou) including water quality goals, environmental risk management and mitigation including; fencing, nutrient awareness and management, erosion control and stabilisation, stocking rates, effluent control etc.

Clinton Hemana (Secretary, Awhina Group) spoke on behalf of Awhina Management Ltd. Awhina Group is a working collective of Māori agribusinesses which exist to help add sustainable value to its members. They have many farms in the Waikato and Waipa catchments. They represent the future aspirations of their people, hapu based owners and employees. The Group have 68 farm units – with 40 dairy and 28 dry stock units. In total they have 38,000 dairy cows and 700,000 dry stock (including dairy support). Clint also spoke briefly to their values and whakapapa with connection to people and land being paramount. Water is a vital source and sustainable farming is key, including managing water quality.

Alamoti Te Pou (CNI Iwi Holdings Ltd – Corporate Trustee for the CNI Iwi Collective and CSG member for Māori interests) spoke to the Group about CNI Iwi Holdings Ltd. Alamoti went through some of the history of the settlement process between Crown and Iwi. CNI is made up of eight Iwi, representing over 110,000 people (in 2008). Some 176,000 hectares of land was returned under settlement, the land returned is currently leased under Crown Forestry Licenses – so they are committed to 35 years of forestry. The Iwi in the collective receive annual income from the trust and utilise this putea for social, cultural and economic purposes. Their challenge is to maximise wealth through operating commercial business, respectful of tikanga and the environment; and to manage the land and opportunities for both current and future generations where opportunities abound and they have a thriving, happy and prosperous community.

The CSG also took a field trip to visit some local Tūwharetoa and Māori interest innovative practices. Some of the places seen and/or talked about on the field trip included:

- Wahi tapu sites
- Ngaire George Sustainable Centre (5km large worm farm)
- Tuaropaki farms and land
- Geothermal fields and power plants
- Miraka milk plant
- Large greenhouses (12.7ha of capsicums and tomatoes)
- Tauhara Moana farms and land

Speakers included Topia Rameka and Dylan Tahau (Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board), Gina Rangī (CSG member and Tuaropaki Trust), Sam Andrews and Clinton Hemana (Awhina Group), Richard Wyeth (Miraka) and Gayle Leaf (CSG member).

Key points were:

- Integrated, innovative and sustainable processes
  - Miraka milk plant and glasshouses use close by geothermal energy and heat. Green waste and waste from the milk plant go to the Ngaire George Sustainable Centre worm farm. Products from the worm farm are used as fertiliser on nearby farms.
- Local history and intergenerational stewardship are very important to individuals, organisations and in particular iwi in this area.
- There needs to be an alignment between what milk companies and regional councils are asking of farmers in terms of effluent storage and ponds
- The science for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora process needs to be right and robust

### **Intensive Community Engagement Period: March 25 to May 5 2015**

The first Healthy Rivers Wai Ora community engagement period for 2015 has now concluded. The focus over the six week period was on consulting with stakeholders via three main methods; the facilitated stakeholder workshop at Hamilton Gardens, the five community drop in sessions around the catchment and the online survey.

The three engagement methods focused on water quality issues and their causes and were used to update stakeholders on the project and involve them in discussion with the CSG on six key areas:

1. how the CSG proposes to divide the catchment into areas to better manage water quality
2. current water quality and trends in different parts of the Waipa and Waikato River catchments
3. insights into factors driving water quality
4. how the CSG will determine how healthy (or unhealthy) a water body is
5. how the project's modelling and research programme will help develop options
6. the project milestones and timelines

#### ***a) Stakeholder workshop***

A workshop was held at Hamilton Gardens Pavilion on March 25<sup>th</sup> with 132 external stakeholders attending (excluding CSG, TLG, TRH, HRWO Councillors, HRWO iwi governors and WRC project staff).

#### ***b) Community drop in sessions during April and May***

Five engagement events (evening drop in sessions) occurred around the catchment:

- Tokoroa on April 1 where 18 community members attended
- Huntly on 9 April with 20 attending
- Hamilton on 13 April with 35 attending
- Otorohanga on 15 April with 34 attending
- Tuakau on 5 May with 26 attending

The Tuakau event was added to the engagement schedule in response to feedback received from stakeholders. The feedback had included that the Huntly drop in session had not provided an adequate opportunity for local people in the lower Waikato to meet the CSG and have their say.

In total some 133 people attended the drop in sessions. It was very useful to have a TLG member attend each session as there were a number of complex scientific questions asked. The majority of people attending stayed and took the opportunity to talk with project staff, TLG and CSG staff and Waikato Regional Councillors. District Councillors were present at the Tokoroa, Huntly, Otorohanga and Tuakau drop in sessions.

### **c) Online survey**

The online survey was based on the six key areas (listed above) and ran from 30 March to 30 April. Following checks there are a total of 241 useable surveys (out of a total of 262). For your information, the following map shows the numbers attending the drop in sessions, the stakeholder forum or responding to the online survey by proposed FMU area.

### **Report on the Intensive Community Engagement Period**

All feedback from the community engagement period has been collated into a report. This report was presented at CSG12 (4/5 June). The report (titled 'Report on the Intensive Engagement Period 1, March-May 2015') is circulated separately with this agenda.

### **Planning for Stakeholder Engagement later in 2015**

At CSG11 (April 23/24) the CSG directed project staff to be preparing resources and plans for the next round of stakeholder engagement later in 2015. These will be the basis of discussion at CSG13 (July 2/3) and members will bring feedback from their respective sectors to CSG14 (August 10/11) on the planned engagement. The purpose of this early discussion and development is to ensure that agreed engagement methods going forward will reach as many stakeholders as possible in an appropriate manner with the timeframes and resources available.

### **The CSG's Working List of Values**

The CSG have directed project staff to progress the working list of values towards presentation and finalisation at CSG13 (July 2/3). Following that workshop the list of values will be presented for decision to the HRWO committee. The HRWO committee had previously had the opportunity to provide comment to CSG on the working list of values.

### **CSG working groups agreed**

Following the workshop session at CSG11 regarding the project timeline, milestones and agenda, two working groups were agreed to facilitate specific areas of work. Both groups were agreed through an open invitation and subsequent self nomination at CSG11.

The first working group met between CSG11 and CSG12 with TLG member Dr Liz Wedderburn to progress specific work on the Integrated Assessment model. This working group includes Dr Ruth Bartlett (Industry), Sally Millar (Delegate - Rural advocacy) and Charlotte Rutherford (Delegate – Dairy).

The second working group, which has yet to meet, will look at any arising and agreed data or modelling issues in conjunction with TLG members. Dr Gwyneth Verkerk (Community) will lead this group, including the development of a terms of reference. The group includes Weo Maag (Māori interests), Dr Rick Pridmore (Dairy), James Bailey (Sheep and Beef), Trish Fordyce (Forestry), Al Fleming (Environment/NGOs), Chris Keenan (Horticulture), Phil Journeaux (Rural professionals) and Alastair Calder (Tourism and recreation).

## **Plan Change and Section 32 Templates**

The CSG consider the plan change template at each workshop and confirm any matters to be added to the template document. The CSG has also approved a Section 32 template. Taking this approach is not pre-empting any particular project outcome, but it is undertaking work and thinking in parallel so it is not left toward the end of the process, and this is considered key to meeting the amended timeframe.

## **TRH River Iwi input to CSG12**

River iwi advisors have a standing invitation to attend CSG workshops to provide regular updates and input, to advise if there are information gaps and any emerging issues, and any actions required to address such issues. This is on the same basis as WRC staff attendees. It is important that such attendance occurs to hear the conversations and to provide input as required.

CSG were pleased to welcome River Iwi staff from Raukawa Charitable Trust, TARIT and Maniapoto Māori Trust Board on day two of the CSG12 workshop for the sessions relating to results of the community engagement, decision making on FMUs and attributes and discussion on the first round of scenarios to be modelled by TLG.

## **Evaluating collaboration - update**

The evaluators (Kinnect Group) attended the CSG only session at CSG12. They fed back to the group results of recent interviews held with some members of the WRC project team, TLG, TRH, HRWO Committee and with the CSG independent chair and independent facilitator. Feedback was well received.

## **Assessment of significance**

Having had regard to the decision making provisions in the Local Government Act 2002 and the council's Policy on Significance, a decision in accordance with the recommendation is not considered to have a high degree of significance.

*Written by:*

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*Janet Amey*  
**Community Engagement Workstream  
Lead**

*Reviewed by:*

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*Bill Wasley*  
**Independent Chairperson of the  
Collaborative Stakeholder Group**

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*Tracey May*  
**Director Science and Strategy**

**Circulated separately with the agenda: Report on Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Intensive Engagement Period: March – May 2015.**