

Kaihū River Working Group Record of Actions

Meeting held in the SEED
Fosters Arcade
42 Victoria Street, Dargaville
on Thursday 8 May 2025, commencing at 10:30 am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor John Blackwell
KDC Councillor, Ash Nayyar
Area 1 Representative, John Murray

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC Rivers Manager, Joseph Camuso
NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Officer, Nicole Basher
NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt (online)
NRC Regional Climate Adaptation Programme Lead, Rakesh Pinao (online)
Colin McDonald

Part Meeting

NRC Biosecurity Specialist - Pest Plants, Nancy Chaves (arrived 10.38am)
Te Roroa Representative, Sharon Murray (arrived 10.39am)
Robert Wade (arrived 10.43am)

The meeting commenced at 1030am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Cr Craw, Cr Shortland, NRC Secretariat Haylee Labelle, Alayne Fitness, Kieran Gilmour, John Greensmith, Snow Tane

Record of Actions – 21 November 2024 (Item 3.1)

Presented by: Cr Blackwell

Agreed action points:

- **Cr Blackwell to contact Area Representative 2 to confirm his intentions of stepping down from the working group.**

Secretarial notes: It was raised that there are more apologies than those present. Cr Nayyar queried the non-attendance of NRC councillors and wants to ensure an option is available for members to join virtually for better accessibility. It was confirmed that virtual attendance by way of MS Teams is a current option that is provided and the link is included on the calendar invitation sent to all invitees. MS Teams is the way in which two attendees were able to join and participate in today's meeting

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 3.2)

Presented by: Cr Blackwell

Agreed action points:

- NIL

Secretarial notes: Comments on the size of the font for the action sheet (hard to read). Cr Nayyar raised concerns about silting of Wairoa, regardless of the tributary, causing grief to locals. Cr Nayyar asked if the KDC floodgates operating as they should. Floodgates are not managed by NRC and therefore while we would assume they are operational, this is something KDC would need to provide comment on.

Kaihu River Working Group - Presentation (Item 3.3)

Presented by: NRC Rivers Manager

Agreed action points:

- **NRC Rivers Manager to ascertain if NRC manages from the outside of the floodgate to the channel**
- **NRC Biosecurity Specialist - Pest Plants to obtain quotes for spraying California bullrush once a control area has been determined by the committee. Until a control area is established only ball park figures and recommendations can be suggested.**
- **NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Officer to update number 1b under the proposed works season budget so that \$30,000 is allocated to weed spraying as a whole, not just MWR.**
- **NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Officer to email the findings of the Kaihu cross sectional survey to the working group (once received by the consultant and analysed in-house).**
- **Rivers team to carry out drone flight before November**

Secretarial notes: Questions were raised relating to clear communication on the scope/scale of the machine cleaning. Machine cleaning should be done based on conditions, not a specific month, to ensure ground conditions are suitable for the work. Colin wanted it noted that the contractor made a mess i.e. he dumped silt where he was operating. He also stopped short (whether it was due to budget or error) and did not clean the canal outlet. NRC Rivers Manager has encouraged landowners to talk to operator, or contact NRC, when they are on site if able to address these concerns before the machine moves off site.

NRC Biosecurity Specialist – Pest Plants talked about MWR to give an overview of the worked completed last year and why an autumn control round was not carried out, and she also talked about the program of work she is involved in which is separate to the NRC/Kaihu work. She was prepared to do an autumn control round along the Kaihu river but was instructed not to by landowners along the area of control. It takes a month of work planning to set up the spray operation before control work can be undertaken per control round. MWR spray can be worked into the planning schedule going forward, but it needs to be completed consistently and as an ongoing long-term commitment moving forward. It was asked if control work could still be undertaken this autumn on the areas controlled last year, it was said it was no longer possible due to the insignificant lead time necessary to plan

ops. Spring treatment will be possible, but autumn treatment is for favourable in comparison to spring treatment.

Important to note that spraying from this budget is for control not eradication.

Te Roroa representative voiced concerns about rock and poplar trees upstream in the river. Bullrush is of concern along the Kaihu, starting above the marae and heading upstream.

The annual budget is not enough for all the work we are wanting to achieve. Discussed rates increase that would have to go into the long term plan.

Any other business (Item 3.4)

Presented by: Cr Blackwell

Agreed action points:

- **NRC Rivers Manager to confirm that the Kaihu rate is tied to CPI**
- **NRC Rivers Manager to contact Te Roroa representative to discuss her concerns around the tributaries of the Kaihu and the concern of rocks and poplars located upstream.**

Secretarial notes: It could not be determined whether the area of concern Te Roroa has falls within the Kaihu's targeted rating area. Cr Nayyar would like water restrictions to be softened. He suggested that NRC and KDC work together to moderate the levels at which restrictions kick in to avoid unnecessary costs for the community. Water level consent and restrictions are something managed by NRC's Compliance team, not the Rivers team

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm