

Natural Resources Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held online
on Wednesday 21 May 2025, commencing at 9:30 am

Secretariat note: Endorsement for Cr Robinson advised request to chair meeting from NRWP Chair

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Deputy Chair Tui Shortland
Ex-Officio Geoff Crawford (Ex-Officio)
Te Ruarangi Representative, Mira Norris
Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Pou Tiaki Taiao | GM Environmental Services
Secretariat Personal Assistant Pou Tiaki Taiao
Strategic Policy Manager
Monitoring Manager
Resource Scientist - Air
Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori
Freshwater Policy Analyst
Strategic Policy Specialist
Policy Specialist
Lucy Evans | Beef & Lamb | PSLG
Carina Ross | DairyNZ | PSLG
Mark Forsyth | MPI | PSLG
Chevon Horsford | TWWAG
Troy Brockbank | TWWAG
Sheila Taylor | TWWAG
Rebecca Fletcher | TWWAG
Ursula Buckingham | PSLG
Delaraine Armstrong | TWWAG
Richard Allen | Fonterra | PSLG

The meeting commenced at 9.30am with karakia by Cr Shortland and mihi to all present.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Te Ruarangi representative, Lynette Wharerau; Te Ruarangi Representative, Geraldine Baker.

Record of Actions – 12 March 2025 (Item 4.1)

Presented by: Cr Robinson

Agreed action points:

- Working Party members agreed that the record of actions was an accurate reflection of the meeting

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

Presented by: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Discussion and Agreed action points:

- Outstanding actions to be presented as part of agenda today.

Freshwater Plan Change Workstream (Item 4.3)

Presented by: Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist; Alison Newell, Policy Specialist and Megha Sethi, Freshwater Policy Analyst

Discussion and Agreed action points:

Secretariat note: Elected members informed of Tangata Whenua Advisory Group and Primary Sector Liaison Group in attendance as part of clarification on work being undertaken.

- Noted: Six meetings have been held by the working groups, focusing on developing shared visions around key topics such as Mapping Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Stock Exclusion from water bodies. While progress has been made in these areas, gaps remain in effectively addressing sediment and E.coli contamination under the current regulatory framework.
- Noted: Staff are working to reduce regulatory complexity of overlapping rules while awaiting final direction from Central Government.
- Noted: Direction from the NRWP is sufficient for staff to continue progressing endorsed workstreams and make operational decisions on resource investment.
- Noted: The Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG) and the Primary Sector Liaison Group both valued the collaborative nature of their joint work, particularly the relationship-building and practical insights gained through on-farm visits. While TWWAG highlighted consistent engagement and a commitment to advocating for Māori values, the Primary Sector Liaison Group appreciated being included and supported continuing the group's work in a scaled-back form. Both groups expressed concern about the uncertainty of upcoming government policy changes and emphasised the importance of aligning future efforts with national policy and RMA reforms.
- Direction: Working party members expressed support for **Option 3**, which proposes continuing with a more limited work programme. This focused approach prioritises completing discussions on stock access, determining the most effective use of the updated Highly Erodible Land (HEL) maps currently in development, and addressing Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) discharge rules. It was agreed that work on earthworks, vegetation clearance, and afforestation will not be progressed under this option. ‘

- Noted: The Council has budgeted for freshwater plan change implementation, including legal processes, within the Long-Term Plan. While funding is in place for upcoming years, uncertainty around government direction and timing means specific implementation requirements are still unknown. The Council will remain flexible and may revisit implementation options once further guidance is provided.
- Action: Schedule and conduct a workshop with Council in June to present current understanding of implementation requirements and associated budgetary implications. This session will provide an early indication of expected costs and inform future planning decisions.

Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions

1. Note the progress on the Freshwater Plan Change Workstreams;
2. Recognise the significant contribution the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group and the Primary Sector Liaison Group members on the Working Group have made in developing agreed principles around how stock exclusion rules should operate in Te Tai Tokerau; and
3. Provide direction on next step options around the Freshwater Plan Change Workstreams in the context of the Resource Management reforms, changes to Freshwater Farm Plans and the imminent arrival of the National Directions Package.

Northland's Dusty Roads (Item 4.4)

Presented by: Obi Khanal, Resource Scientist

Discussion and Agreed action points:

- Action: Presentation to be sent to Working Party members
- Action: Report on current compliance monitoring outcomes based on existing budget and activities. This initial reporting will establish a baseline of what is currently being delivered. If further insights or expanded monitoring are desired, Council can consider this in future decision-making regarding resourcing and the scope of compliance monitoring.

Catchment Business Case Update (Item 4.5)

Presented by: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Discussion and Agreed action points:

- Noted: The Taumarere Catchment Business Case is in development and is expected to be completed by August. Once adopted by Council, it will provide a foundation for guiding investment decisions in the catchment and support engagement with central government for funding and partnership opportunities.
- Noted: The Taumarere Business Case has progressed ahead of the Hokianga Harbour Business Case due to limited capacity, making it unfeasible to deliver both simultaneously.
- Noted: The development of the business case for the Hokianga catchment is anticipated to be complex due to the dynamic nature of the catchment and the need for extensive collaboration with multiple partners. To ensure a coordinated and effective approach,

this work is scheduled to commence following the completion of the Taumarere Business Case.

Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions

1. That the report be received by the Working Party.
2. That the Working Party be kept up to date on progress with the business case.

Councillor Information Package on the Freshwater Plan Change and other Freshwater Management by NRC (Item 4.6)

Presented by: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Discussion and Agreed action points:

- Noted Action: Working Party endorsed the recommended action. Pack to be finalised and shared with councillors

Direction to continue as per report and agreed actions

1. That the Natural Resources Working Party endorses the draft Councillor Info Pack, and/or provide staff with further direction on its content.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.35 with closing karakia by Interim Chair Cr Robinson.