

Urban Whangārei Rivers Working Group

Friday 12 September 2025 at 10:00 am - 11.30am

AGENDA

Urban Whangārei Rivers Working Group Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Tutukaka-Nui Room (ground floor)
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Friday 12 September 2025, commencing at 10:00 am - 11.30am

Please note: working parties and working groups carry NO formal decision-making delegations from council. The purpose of the working party/group is to carry out preparatory work and discussions prior to taking matters to the full council for formal consideration and decision-making. Working party/group meetings are open to the public to attend (unless there are specific grounds under LGOIMA for the public to be excluded).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE URBAN WHANGĀREI RIVERS WORKING GROUP

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Jack Crow

Deputy Chair - WDC Mayor,
Vince Cocurullo

Whangārei CBD/Hatea
Ratepayer representative,
Peter Geddes

Iwi representative, Mira Norris

WDC Representative, Andrew
Carvell

Northchamber Representative,
Leah McKerrow

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3.4 WDC Projects Update	
<i>Andrew Carvell will provide a project update</i>	
3.5 Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy Update	
3.6 Any other Business	

TITLE: **Record of Actions – 3 April 2025**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 26 August 2025
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 3 April 2025 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Record of Actions - 3 April 2025 [↓](#)

Urban Whangārei Rivers Working Group
3 April 2025

Urban Whangārei Rivers Working Group Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Thursday 3 April 2025, commencing at 1:00 pm - 2:30pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Jack Craw
Whangārei CBD/Hatea Ratepayer representative, Peter Geddes
Iwi representative, Mira Norris
WDC Stormwater Manager, Andrew Carvell

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

WDC Councillor – alternate, Nicholas Connop
NRC Rivers and Natural Hazards Manager, Joseph Camuso
NRC Rivers Asset Management Officer, Dale Roberts
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle
WDC Representative, Matt De Boer
NRC Senior River Management Engineer, Barney Brotherhood
Cook Costello, Phil Cook
NRC Natural Hazards Specialist, Sarah Gauden-Ing

Part Meeting

NRC Climate Action and Natural Hazards Manager, Natalie Child

The meeting commenced at 1pm with Karakia by Cr Craw.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

WDC Mayor Vince Cocurullo, Leah McKerrow – North Chamber, Selwyn Norris, Cr Stolwerk, Cr Robinson, Cr Shortland, Simon Weston

Record of Actions – 4 October 2024 (Item 3.1)

Presented by: Cr Craw

Agreed action points:

- NIL

Secretarial notes: Mira Norris gave apologies for Selwyn Norris and notes his resignation from the Port Rd/Selwyn Rd representative role

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Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 3.2)

Presented by: Cr Craw

Agreed action points:

- **NRC Rivers Manager to approach North Chamber about working group vacancies for Morningside and Raumanga**

Secretarial notes: The team briefly discussed a potential road link but concluded it is not relevant to the current committee. NRC confirmed that the Kotuku dam and other infrastructure are covered by insurance, including natural protection.

Clarified the terms of reference for the working group, which includes WDC and NRC sharing drainage and flood protection functions. They discussed the responsibilities and membership of the group. Discussed potential changes to the terms of reference, including expanding the scope to include coastal work and other collaborative projects. The goal is to ensure comprehensive coverage of all relevant areas.

The chair wants the Awa project comms progressed to demonstrate value for money to the community. To socialise the benefit of the close out report with pictures and potentially a media release. This action still remains on the log for Joe Camuso to progress.

It was noted the representation for Morningside and Raumanga is missing from this working group

Presentation (Item 3.3)

Presented by: Joe Camuso

Agreed action points:

- NIL

Secretarial notes: topics covered in the presentation are items on this agenda and notes recorded under those headings accordingly.

Budget (Item 3.4)

Presented by: Joe Camuso

Agreed action points:

- NIL

Secretarial notes: Reviewed the budget and expenses, noting a surplus of about \$500,000 that will be used to pay down debt. They discussed the impact of increased interest rates on debt repayment, noting that NRC interest rate re-balancing reflecting on higher interest payments this year. NRC is reducing debt by approximately \$500,000 per year on a debt of approximately \$6,500,000. Budget 5018 is used for any capital works and currently showing approximately surplus of \$214,000.

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Works Update (Item 3.5)

Presented by: Joe Camuso

Agreed action points:

- NIL

Secretarial notes: Discussed river clearance and maintenance work, focusing on the removal of trees and vegetation to prevent flooding issues. They emphasized the importance of regular maintenance to ensure the effectiveness of flood protection measures. NRC has engaged local contractors to perform river clearance work, including the removal of smaller trees and vegetation. This approach helps maintain the river channels and prevent blockages that could lead to flooding.

Constructed a new accessway into Kotuku Dam to enable mowing this also made it possible to get access for a digger and fix the gabion baskets. A camera has been installed to reduce vandalism and monitor water levels. The camera takes a picture every 10-minutes and will be important in flood events negating the need for a site visit. WDC is progressing modelling work on a storm water detention in the Hatea Catchment, with feasibility work expected to be completed by the end of July.

Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy Update - Andrew Carvell (Item 3.6)

Presented by: Matt De Boer

Agreed action points:

- **Ensure the strategic case includes the new national groundwater modelling tool and assess its applicability at a regional and local level – Sarah**
- **Matt De Boer to provide a copy of the presentation provided to circulate with the meeting minutes**
- **Phil Cook to send Matt De Boer and contacts with construction experience**

Secretarial notes: Matt De Boer provided a presentation and update on the collaborative project between NRC and WDC, focusing on understanding risks to urban infrastructure, risk management approaches, and developing business cases for funding and implementation. The project has co-funding from NRC and WDC through the current long-term plan. The team is in the process of developing the project, with Andrew Carvel as the director for project. Technical assessments developing options and modelling options are in the procurement phase, with a tender evaluation panel assessing short-listed proposals and intend to award mid-April 2025 and delivery of options by June 2026.

The team discussed the scope of technical assessments, which include evaluating flood mitigation options, climate change scenarios, and the feasibility of engineering and policy solutions. The team plans to hold workshops with councillors to develop criteria for assessing options. The business cases will be developed based on the technical assessments, focusing on actions required within the next 10 years. The goal is to integrate these actions into the next long-term plan for funding and implementation.

WDC has reviewed a NIWA study on the likelihood of flooding coinciding with extreme tides or storm surges, and the importance of considering both factors in flood modelling. The study found that tidal amplification occurs at the end of the harbour, and joint probability graphs were generated to understand the likelihood of these events happening together. The study suggests running different scenarios in flood models, including those dominated by storm surge and those dominated by river

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flooding. This approach ensures comprehensive flood risk assessment. The findings highlight the need to consider both storm surge and river flooding in flood modelling.

The first pass risk assessment aims to understand the impacts of flooding on the community, including economic, social, and cultural factors. The assessment will identify hotspot areas and clusters within the city that experience different types of flooding. The assessment will consider the risk to life, community well-being, and connectivity. The goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the potential impacts of flooding on the community and inform future planning and mitigation efforts.

Any other Business (Item 3.7)

Presented by: Cr Craw

Agreed action points:

- **NRC Rivers Team to conduct a site visit to inspect the area between the Whareora Rd bridge and the Canopy Bridge for any large tree trunks that could pose a flood risk.**
- **Present the feasibility work for the stormwater attenuation system (Tikipunga/Vinegar Hill Road) to the committee by the end of July. (Andrew)**

Secretarial notes: General discussions about the bridge over Whareora Road.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.20pm.

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 09 September
Group Manager/s: 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Action Sheet [↓](#)

Urban Whangārei River Working Group - Action Tracker

Meeting date	Item	UWRWG action	Responsible staff	Status	Notes
3/08/2023	Investment outcomes (Item 3.2)	Accelerate the planting at Hopua te Nihotetea Detention Dam	NRC	Progressing	1/9/25 Have passed on the solar farm info to the Land Management team, to ensure they are aware how it might affect tree planting. Other than a brief conversation with Land Management, have not been able to prioritise new tree planting, due to all the work on the houses on site, the dam compliance work and procurement for a new dam maintenance contract. Will ask Phil for an update regarding the solar farm, then we can get a better idea of where new planting can go ahead. 26/8/25 Solar farm has advanced to business case 2/4/25 Rivers Asset Management Officer, Dale Roberts, has been in contact with NRC's Property and Land Management team to ensure everyone is aware of the details of the proposed solar farm. Dale has discussed with the Land Management team to ensure this proposal won't affect their planting and to inform them that any additional planting should be avoided in the proposal area. Dale will continue to liaise with both teams to ensure coordination. 10/3/24 Joe has tasked to Dale to follow-up Need to outline a Master Plan for the Dam usage- i.e., NRC Wide plan, i.e. there is a proposal for a potential Solar Farm scheduled for the dam - BMX track etc, would not want to plant and then have to remove plantings for Solar Farm or other uses.
4/10/2024	Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 3.2)	Andrew Carvell to obtain a picture of Kotuku dam from Jeff Devine and circulate to Mayor Cocurullo	WDC - Andrew Carvell	Complete	3/4/25 Andrew advised this action has been completed
4/10/2024	Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy (Item 3.8)	Andrew to provide updates to this committee as a standing agenda item for the Whangarei urban flood strategy	WDC - Andrew Carvell	Complete	3/4/25 Update provided by Matt De Boer and secretary requested copy of presentation to circulate to working group 10/3/24 Added to the April 2025 agenda and Secretary issued reminder to Andrew
4/10/2024	Any other business (Item 3.10)	Cast the net wider for new members for the Urban Whangarei Rivers Working party, stating the benefits of belonging to the party	Joe Camuso	Progressing	20/3/25 Nicole reached out to Matt Johnson - NRC media specialist to arrange some comms however Matt advised he had spoken to Joe about this and its now with Joe again 10/3/24 Joe has tasked Nicole Basher to follow-up in house with the comms team on promoting the working group in the community
3/04/2025	Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 3.2)	NRC Rivers Manager to approach North Chamber about working group vacancies for Morningside and Raumanga	Joe Camuso		
3/04/2025	Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy Update (3.6)	Ensure the strategic case includes the new national groundwater modelling tool and assess its applicability at a regional and local level	Sarah Gauden-Ing	Closed	2/9/25 The new national groundwater database is not of sufficient resolution to be used in the Whangarei Urban Flood Strategy. The strategy does not currently include groundwater in its modelling, but it is noted and acknowledged as a contributing factor in flooding
3/04/2025	Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy Update (3.6)	Provide a copy of the presentation provided to circulate with the meeting minutes	Matt De Boer	Complete	8/4/25 Matt sent to NRC secretariat who forwarded to Working Group members who were not already on the email chain
3/04/2025	Joint NRC/WDC Whangarei Urban Flood Management Strategy Update (3.6)	Send Matt De Boer contacts with construction experience	Phil Cook		
3/04/2025	Any other business (Item 3.7)	NRC Rivers Team to conduct a site visit to inspect the area between the Whareora Rd bridge and the Canopy Bridge for any large tree trunks that could pose a flood risk.	NRC Rivers Team	Progressing	1/9/25 This has been scheduled for after 8/9/25
3/04/2025	Any other business (Item 3.7)	Present the feasibility work for the stormwater attenuation system (Tikipunga/Vinegar Hill Road) to the committee by the end of July.	Andrew Carvell	Progressing	20/8/25 Andrew confirmed he will provdie an update at the September meeting 3/4/25 NRC Secretariat to reach out when preparing agenda to confirm if ready to present

Whangarei Urban Update

12 September 2025



Budget FY25/26

Whangarei Urban Rivers Financial Report

5006

Description	2023/2024			2024/2025			2025/26		
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual - YTD August	Variance
Operating Expenses									
Protective Clothing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Celebrations	0	1,348	(1,348)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	10,142	6,310	3,832	3,418	7,356	(3,938)	3,418	1,157	2,262
Consultants	8,630	38,056	(29,426)	8,632	15,889	(7,257)	38,496	0	38,496
Legal Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valuation Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contract Staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stopbank & River Schemes works	34,519	30,991	3,528	61,654	46,822	14,832	25,251	0	25,251
River Clearance Works	42,417	7,908	34,509	45,671	15,168	30,502	27,650	0	27,650
Flood damage work programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R&M - Commercial Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rates - owner occupied properties	3,965	0	3,965	6,221	0	6,221	6,532	0	6,532
Koha/donations	0	0	0	0	600	(600)	0	0	0
Field Equipment	0	0	0	0	343	(343)	0	0	0
Postage and Couriers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicle running costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sundry Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rates - Investment properties	0	0	0	0	854	(854)	0	0	0
Water Rates - Investment properties	0	553	(553)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tenants - Share of Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses - Tenanted Property	9,693	17,595	(7,902)	14,734	23,246	(8,513)	56,577	14,581	41,996
Commission - Tenanted Property	4,000	5,153	(1,153)	4,973	5,576	(603)	4,973	445	4,528
Rate Collection Cost - TA's	17,773	16,161	1,613	18,342	14,864	3,478	18,929	0	18,929
Internal Interest Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Paid - Sundry	243,845	235,671	8,174	201,252	280,671	(79,419)	184,168	0	184,168
Depreciation - Infrastructure Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation - Infrastructure Dam Assets	97,838	93,231	4,607	79,833	93,231	(13,398)	79,833	0	79,833
Labour Charged	0	1,141	(1,141)	0	1,659	(1,659)	0	0	0
Sub Total	472,822	454,117	18,705	444,729	506,278	(61,549)	445,828	16,182	429,645
Operating Income									
Rates Revenue	943,292	942,461	(831)	943,292	942,543	(749)	943,292	0	(943,292)
Tenants - Recovery of Costs	0	386	386	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest - Cash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LTF Gains	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest - Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Long Term Fund In House Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rent received - Commercial Property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rent received - Dam Properties	37,400	55,323	17,923	32,000	54,071	22,071	58,760	5,350	(53,410)
Rent received - Marsden Point Rail Properties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total	980,692	998,169	17,477	975,292	996,614	21,322	1,002,052	5,350	(996,702)
Net operating Surplus / (Deficit)	507,870	544,052	36,182	530,563	490,335	(40,228)	556,224	(10,832)	(567,057)
Capital expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less depreciation	97,838	93,231	4,607	79,833	93,231	(13,398)	79,833	0	79,833
Net operating and capital surplus / (Deficit)	605,708	637,283	31,575	610,396	583,566	(26,830)	636,057	(10,832)	(646,890)
Surplus / (Deficit) carried forward	(7,157,837)	(7,073,946)	83,891	(5,941,733)	(6,529,894)	(588,162)	(4,695,279)	(6,039,559)	(1,344,280)
Surplus / (Deficit) at balance date	(6,552,129)	(6,529,894)	22,235	(5,331,336)	(6,039,559)	(708,222)	(4,059,221)	(6,050,391)	(1,991,170)

Weather Event July 29th 2025

Kotuku Dam Reservoir

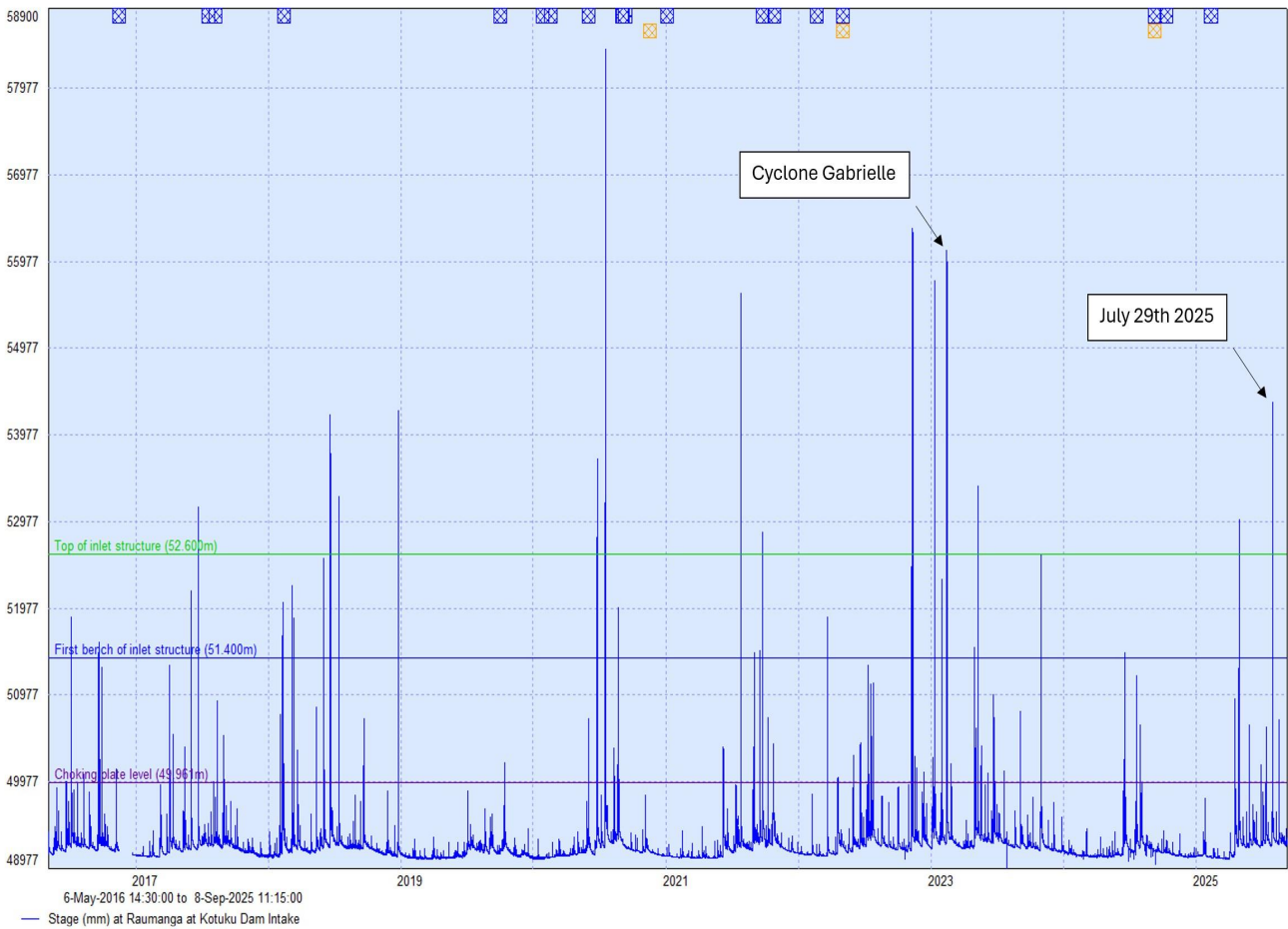


Weather Event February 13th 2023 (C. Gabrielle)

Kotuku Dam Reservoir



Cyclone Gabrielle compared to 29th July 2025



Works in 25/26

Kotuku Dam

Drain clearing to be complete
with an excavator



Drains cleared in May 2024

They revegetate approximately
every 6 months



Future works

Investigation into permanent fix for
blocked drains

Possibly a rock groyne could reduce
the sediment

Solution will require design by Dam
engineer



Works in 25/26

Vegetation building up in Kotuku
Dam spillway

Will continue to clear with a shovel



Future works

Excess water increases vegetation
in the rest of the spillway.

The ground conditions are very
soft, making maintenance difficult.



Excess water increases
vegetation elsewhere and makes
the ground very soft, year-round.

Future works

**Vegetation build can get quite bad,
as shown in December 2024.**

**Constant flow of water, contributes
to this issue.**

**Potential to direct low flow down
existing swale above.**

**Will need design and input from
Dam engineer.**



Future works

Undermined headwall at
Woods Rd Floodwall

Rock armour to be sized
appropriately and replaced





Any questions?

Ngā Mihi - Thank you