

## JOBS FOR NATURE

# Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

## Community Stakeholder Group meeting

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Rimu Room, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin.

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# NOTES

### In Attendance

#### Community Stakeholder Group members:

Sam Ferguson (Co-Chair), Charles Rudd, Vivienne Bold, Phil Teal, Trevor Hinder, David Blackison, Peter Matich, Dean Wilson.

#### Support:

Logan Brown and Charlotte Minnis.

#### Apologies:

Adam Duker, Geoff Kane, Dan Touhy, Jay Clarke, Michelle Sands.

### 1 Welcome – 6.05pm

Dean Wilson opened the meeting with a karakia and Sam Ferguson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2 Project update

Logan provided an update on the project including work that had been completed on the farm in relation to the wetland project. He gave a brief overview of the experts hui that was held the week before.

### 3 General Discussion/Feedback

- Will the sediment traps be in the conceptual design?

While they are discussed in the conceptual design, the sizing and placement of the sediment traps will be in the detailed design and the consultants being used for the project are working through these details at the moment.

- Will there be a sediment trap on the Patiki?

No this is outside the scope of the Arawhata project

- **Vivienne Bold/Charles Rudd** – Why are the elder trees being killed?

These trees are pests and will continue to be pests in the wetland complex if not removed. They are nitrogen fixers and so will be contributing to the input of nitrogen to the Arawhata Stream. They are also restrictive to river works and any future works on the Arawhata Stream.

- **Charles Rudd** – Concerned about the spreading of poisons from the trees when they are cut down/burnt

The trees were poisoned 12 months prior to being cut down and will not be burnt. The trees were/will be chipped and will be used around plantings/bioreactors. We have been informed that the poison used to kill the trees will not impact the chip.

- **Charles Rudd** – Where are the trees for the wetland coming from and what are we going to do about the weeds in racecourse drain?

The trees will be locally sourced and we are working on which suppliers will be suitable. The weeds in racecourse drain are outside the scope of this project but Charlotte will pass this information on to the Horizons pest plant team.

- PSI – will there be detailed investigations for the land contamination?

Yes there will be some detailed site investigations and we are just working through what that looks like with the contractor.

- Charles Rudd – Horizons is not taking into consideration the fish and invertebrates that live in the Arawhata

Horizons is very aware of the organisms living in the stream as there has been extensive monitoring done. There is also a freshwater ecologist consultant engaged for the consent and design process.

- What are the conditions of the farm lease and where does the money from the lease go?

There are a number of conditions on the farm lease including that the land cannot be used for dairy farming and must not have rising two year old cattle on it over winter. There cannot be any intensive winter grazing and the leaching rate for the property cannot exceed more than 15kg/ha of nitrate. The money from the lease is reinvested into the farm with things like tree removal and boundary fence replacement.

- **Phil Teal** – Concerned about the wetland efficiency at high flows and would like to see the modeled rates.

This is being worked on as part of the detailed design and will be provided once we have it.

- **Peter Matich** – As the land cannot be used for dairy farming any longer the property value will have significantly decreased and the property rates won't currently reflect this. Will the rates be decreased?

No the property rates will not be altered.

- **Vivienne Bold/Charles Rudd**

Why was Vivienne not allowed to attend the Kohuturoa marae meeting for Lake Trustees? Because she isn't a lake trustee.

Why is Horizons not consulting with Kawiu marae?

If Kawiu marae would like to have their own hui then that can be arranged.

- What planting is being done this year and what trees are being planted? Why can't tree species be planted? We don't just want harakeke and carex.

The covenant bush block is being extended with a further 1000 native plants being planted this year. We are planting trees that will survive in the wet conditions in this area. The seed bank from the established bush block behind will eventually feed into the area but we need to get some nursery natives planted initially which include carex and flax.

- Why was Vertical Arborists used to remove the Arawhata trees and not a local company?

Vertical Arborists are a trusted contractor for Horizons Regional Council and have a great record of being safe, tidy contractors. The tree removal of this scale is reasonably high risk and we need to ensure we use a contractor that is going to do the job safely and efficiently. If you have any suggestions for arborists local to Levin then we will look into them.

- No suggestions were provided.

- What are the planting survival rates?

The survival rates can vary depending on a large number of variables such as who planted them, what the weather was like in the 12 months following, pest control/plant releasing.

- **David Blackison** – Forest and bird have a small nursery and would like to be able to contribute to the trees planted. They eco-source kahikatea from Papaitonga reserve.

- **What are the consenting timelines?**

We are aiming to have a consent lodged in September of 2023. There are some very tight timeframes but we are still working towards the project being completed by December 2024.

- **Trevor Hinder – Why doesn't Jacobs have a date of delivery in their contract?**

They do have date of deliveries and timelines to work to but unfortunately some things have just taken longer than anticipated and we are limited on the consultants we can use for this type of project.

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**Actions: Send out the project update presentation**

Sam closes with a karakia at 7.40pm