

JOBS FOR NATURE

Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

Waikawa community meeting

Sunday 20th November 2022, Manakau Community Hall

NOTES

In Attendance:

Barbara Littlesomns, Debra Betts, Stephen Betts, Kimbal Mchugo, Veronica Harrond, Ben Mchugo, Brenda Mchugo, Brenda McPartlin, Batch Hulu.

Horizons staff:

Logan Brown, Charlotte Minnis, Nic Portegys.

Welcome

Logan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introduction and Oranga wai: (Nic Portegys)

- Oranga wai is about community vision/s and values for freshwater management and planning (regulatory and non-regulatory actions) to work towards achieving those values and visions.
- The presentation outlined the changes in the RMA and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and Horizon's responsibility as environmental regulators to incorporate these changes into our Regional Plan to improve freshwater quality in the region.

Questions and comments:

- Veronica Harrod – was interested in the quality of bore water in the Waikawa area. Interested as her drinking water is from a bore but also interested in the general status of the quality of Waikawa groundwater. Veronica was provided with the Horizons groundwater email address so that she could direct her questions to Stephen (Horizons groundwater scientist).
- The Waikawa community was concerned about the degradation of the Waikawa River.
- There were questions about what is being done to hold polluting landowners accountable and if farmers were being educated about environmentally sustainable practices.

Key issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horizons monitoring and compliance program around water quality in the Waikawa catchment.• Education of landowners that are having an impact on the Waikawa catchment water quality/Holding polluters accountable.

Horowhenua Wetland Complex Project: (Logan Brown)

- Update on the Jobs for Nature work in the Waiopēhu Freshwater Management Unit to date.
- Background to the wetland complex project, project partners and the selection of the constructed wetland complex site.
- The wetland complex is one part of our freshwater management/interventions required for Lake Horowhenua and its catchment. A number of interventions will be required to restore the health of Lake Horowhenua.
- The phases of the wetland complex construction and the environmental outcomes that the wetland is aiming to achieve for Lake Horowhenua.

Comments/Questions

- Is there enough being done to ensure that farmers and horticulturalists are aware of the environmental impacts they are having on the lake and how they can reduce their impacts? **Response:** This work is happening through other work streams both internally and externally to Horizons Regional Council but is outside of the scope of the Wetland Complex Project. Project stakeholders are being consulted though through our community stakeholder group including, HortNZ, Woodhaven, and Federated Farmers and are aware of the land use impacts in the area. Multiple contributing factors impact freshwater in the region and although horticultural and farming land use is having an impact, urban contamination is similarly influencing water quality in the catchment.
- They would like us to investigate the possibility of carbon farming the forest portion of the wetland complex.
- Overall the community felt positive about the constructed wetland complex project and hoped that it will achieve improved environmental outcomes for Lake Horowhenua

Key issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education of landowners in the area that are having an impact on the water quality in the Lake Horowhenua catchment.