

## **JOBS FOR NATURE**

# **Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions**

## **Waitarere community meeting**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Waitarere Bowling Club

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## **NOTES**

### **In Attendance:**

Jeremy Manks, Lizzie Valentine, Phil Comber, Sharon Freebairn, Sue and Allan Judd, Craig Dyson, Carol McMillan.

### **Horizons staff:**

Logan Brown, Charlotte Minnis, Amy Lennard, Nic Portegys.

### **Supporting:**

Cr Sam Ferguson.

### **Welcome**

Logan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Introduction and Oranga wai: (Amy Lennard and 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:**

- The Waitarere community have issues with the beach not being swimmable due to the impact of the Manawatū river – "this an offence against the RMA based on historical mismanagement of the Manawatū River by HRC".
- What is the overall summary of feedback from the community so far in the Oranga Wai process? **Response:** At this stage there are two main groups. There are the people who want clean waterways and improved water quality. Although do not necessarily acknowledge the changes/challenges that may need to be made to achieve this in a timeframe they find acceptable. There is also a group of people who will be directly impacted by the changes that will need to happen in order for improved water quality. They are concerned about the impact that those

changes or regulations may have on their ability to continue operating in a financially sustainable manner.

- How are we balancing the need for data and the cost of collecting that data? **Response:** There is a lot of data, science and analysis that is happening internally and external to Horizons Regional Council. We also have a monitoring program that will be reassessed in the near future to ensure that we are getting the maximum efficiency and effectiveness from the monitoring program.
- Monitoring out at Waitarere – why is there no monitoring in Waitarere? **Response:** the maps in the presentation do not show monitoring sites at Waitarere as the sites shown have been analysed against the NOF. Monitoring at Waitarere is limited to contact recreation monitoring (beach and the stream), and then coastal monitoring for State of the Environment is undertaken at Waitarere beach. Coastal water quality is not included in the NOF so no assessment against it can be undertaken.
- Quality of beach water – although Oranga Wai is addressing freshwater, the freshwater from the Manawatū and Waitarere catchments is having an impact on the beach at Waitarere. What is being done about the chlorophyll A/surf scum on the beaches? The community would like to see this being feed into the freshwater policy reform as this saltwater issue is being caused due to the quality of the freshwater.
- How are Horizons going to enforce/regulate the water quality standards that we set?
- There was some discussion around three waters and how this will impact Horizons Regional Council. **Response:** Nic clarified that three waters is outside the scope of the current Regional Council’s responsibilities, at this stage it will just change which entity we regulate.

Key issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact that the Manawatū River is having on the Waitarere coastal water.</li> <li>• Horizons monitoring and compliance program around water quality in the Waitarere catchment.</li> </ul>



**Horowhenua Wetland Project: (Logan Brown)**

- Update on the Jobs for Nature work in the Waiopēhu catchment 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 phasing of the wetland complex construction and the environmental outcomes that the wetland is going 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 external to Horizons Regional Council however , 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.
- Feedback was received that we should investigate the Earthquake slow slip activity and its impact on the groundwater in the area and how it relates to the fault lines around the constructed wetland complex.
- Feedback was received that we should investigate sustainable energy (e.g. solar panels) for any pumping systems used in the constructed wetland complex.
- Feedback was received that we should investigate the possibility of carbon farming for the forest portion of the Arawhata wetland complex.
- They had concerns on how the wetland might potentially impact on the groundwater and surrounding landowners.
- 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"><li>• Potential flooding around the proposed Wetland Complex.</li><li>• The wider environmental issues around Lake Horowhenua and how these are being addressed by the Horowhenua Wetland Complex project as well as other work streams.</li></ul>