

JOBS FOR NATURE

Horowhenua Freshwater Management Unit Water Quality Interventions

Community Stakeholder Group meeting

Monday 15th September 2025, Rimu/Totara Room, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin

NOTES

In Attendance

Community Stakeholder Group members:

Sam Ferguson (Co-Chair), Vivienne Bold, Dan Tuohy, Geoff Kane, Jay Clarke, Charles Rudd, Rita King, Christine Moriarty, Phil Teal, Leanne Roberts, Geoff Ritchie, Trevor Hinder.

Support: Charlotte Minnis, Pearl Ruston.

Apologies:

Logan Brown, Dean Wilson (Co-chair), Michelle Sands.

1 Welcome – 6.05pm

Sam opens.

2 Consenting update

Charlotte provides a consent update for the Arawhata Wetland.

3 Update general discussion/feedback

Charlotte provides a timeline update and a workplan for the next construction season.

- Discussion around where the budget is at for the project. There was concern voiced that the project has cost a lot of money, and we haven't built a wetland yet. Consenting costs, land purchase and other contract deliverables have contributed to this.
- Discussion around who appealed the consent, why and under which legal grounds. Concern expressed around delays caused and the cost of the appeal process.
- Racecourse drain/Hokio Beach Road drain testing – there is still a desire to have this drain tested for water quality. This drain currently isn't sampled as the drain is often dry and there were historical "stormwater chasing" sampling efforts.

* Viv Bold's son Warren Crouch joins *
- Request made by Sam to give notice for people attending who have not been invited. Reminder that the Community Stakeholder meetings are not an open meeting and that representatives for stakeholder group have been invited.

- Discussion around the neighborhood stakeholder group. This group has been defined by the EPA and only includes the land parcels identified in the consent conditions.

Charles Rudd requested a copy of the land parcel list.

- Discussion around plant species and Charles Rudd asked why is there no Mamaku on the planting list. Mamaku was not identified by the project ecologists as a suitable plant species for Phase One of the wetland.
- Charles Rudd - Why has there not been any work done around reducing the contaminants in the Patiki Stream?

Charlotte Minnis - The Patiki Stream is outside the scope of the Arawhata Wetland project.

Jay Clarke – There have been conversations around which areas are suitable for cropping and which areas aren't within the Patiki and Arawhata catchments.

- Future funding – need to start lobbying for more money now to try and get Phase One and Two fully completed.
- Discussion regarding ongoing communication with the community group – email updates to ensure that milestones are being met and to organise community planting days closer to May. The future of the community stakeholder group as it currently exists will be dependent on the Governance Group and the future phasing of the project.

5 Sam closes 7pm