

# Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – For Information

**File No:** 23 10 02  
**Date:** 4 September 2015  
**To:** Collaborative Stakeholder Group  
**From:** Chairperson – Bill Wasley  
**Subject:** Translating the Waipa Catchment Plan concepts into Plan Change 1  
**Section:** **For Information**

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## Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Waikato Regional Council policy advisors for the use of Collaborative Stakeholder Group Healthy Rivers: Wai Ora Project as a reference document and as such does not constitute Council's policy.

## 1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an introduction to the CSG session at workshop 16a, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, on taking the Waipa Catchment Plan approach, and thinking about possible voluntary and compulsory policy approaches.

## Recommendation:

1. That the report [Translating the Waipa Catchment Plan concepts into Plan Change 1] (Doc #3500848 dated 4 September August 2015) be received.

## 2 Background

At the last workshop (CSG15, 26-27 August 2015) the CSG asked to hear more about the Waipa Catchment Plan (WCP) and what aspects of the WCP could form part of possible compulsory policy options that the CSG are considering. This will help identify potential issues with an integrated, catchment wide voluntary approach, constraints of a non-regulatory approach and what a mix of aspects of both might mean.

Grant Blackie (WRC Zone Manager) and his team are currently implementing the Waipa Catchment Plan. Grant spoke at CSG9, February 2015, about this approach and other ways that WRC currently manage sediment.

Grant will expand upon this first session, by presenting:

- A re-cap on the approach taken in the Waipa Catchment Plan (also see the summary document 'Waipa Catchment issues, drivers and responses' #3273795 attached).
- Some of the implementation considerations for this type of approach.
- Aspects of the Waipa Catchment Plan approach that other policy options could include (e.g. refining areas of risk, targeting priority area).
- An implementer's perspective on what would happen if this approach was expanded, both spatially and into a regulatory framework.
- An implementer's perspective on trying to translate these concepts into other policy options being considered by the CSG, such as Tailored Property Plans.

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**Bill Wasley**

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# Waipa Catchment issues, drivers and responses

## With a focus on causes of sediment and current and proposed management response

### Outline of February 10<sup>th</sup> CSG Session 11- 11.45 am

1. Overview of the Waipa River Catchment
2. What land use mitigations and river works reduce sediment entering water bodies?
3. Regional Council existing program: current approach to sediment
4. What's new in the Waipa Catchment Plan approach

| Outline   | Key Points   |
|---|--|
| <p>Waipa Catchment</p> <p>Causes of diffuse sediment discharges and impact on water quality</p> | <p>Catchment facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catchment covers 306,569 ha</li> <li>• River flows northward from headwaters at Pekapeka, through Otorohanga, Pirongia and Whatawhata, before meeting confluence of Waikato River at Ngaruawahia</li> <li>• Mainstem is 115km long, and river system consist of 4,825km of mapped stream and river channels</li> <li>• The population is approximately 67,000 (2006 census data) and there are approx 19,000 ratepayers in the catchment many of which are rural dweller as there are no majors cities</li> </ul> <p>Main issues in the catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality and erosion</li> <li>• 67% of the total load of sediment in the lower Waikato River comes from Waipā River (pg 12 WCP)</li> </ul> <p>Catchment implications of erosion/ sediment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of soil resources, impacts on water quality, habitat, biodiversity, recreation, flood risks, aggradations of main channel leading to increased erosion and flood hazards (pg 11 WCP)</li> </ul> <p>Major sources of sediment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass movement (including 1991 Tunawaea slip) and stream bank erosion (pg 13 WCP)</li> </ul> <p>Stream bank protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2010 study showed 54% of stream banks fenced (pg 11 WCP)</li> <li>• All most 75% of the catchment stream length consists of small channels drainage from pastoral land (pg 12 WCP)</li> </ul> <p>Natural sources - what's in the system already</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion prone soils and unstable areas deliver high loads of sediment (and Phosphorous) to the Waipa rivers and some tributaries (pg 10 WCP).</li> <li>• The 1991 Tunawaea slip is a significant issue that requires long term management – council has implemented a specific project to</li> </ul> |

| Outline  | Key Points   |
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|  | <p>stabilise material from the landslide and provides a stable channel along the valley floor to help the river move the load through the system (pg 10 WCP).</p> <p>Intensification and change in land use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 2002-2008 a small percentage of catchment land (1000ha) was converted from plantation to pasture</li> <li>• From 2001-2008 increases in stocking rate occurred on 31% of pastoral land in the catchment</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Waipā Catchment Plan</i></p>   |
| <p>Councils existing program: current approach to sediment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Methods and rules in the operative Waikato Regional Plan</li> <li>2. Catchment works approved by the Waipa Zone Liaison sub committee</li> <li>3. Voluntary program of actions undertaken by landowners with Council support</li> </ol> | <p><b>Rules</b><br/>Overview of the councils approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus in the existing rules – forestry, vegetation clearances, roading soil disturbance etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Voluntary</b><br/>Council approach has been to work with anyone in the catchment who is willing</p> <p>Staff comment of experience to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uptake of voluntary catchment program including the development of property-level plans</li> <li>• Uptake of financial incentives for farm-level mitigations e.g. fencing and planting</li> <li>• Implementation of practices in a farm plan, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ what kinds of actions and over what timeframe,</li> <li>○ do actions not occur,</li> <li>○ are actions set out in the property plan modified by landholders?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Cost-sharing -- how much landholders are contributing to the cost of undertaking works</p> <p>Learnings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What have been the Council resourcing requirements to implement voluntary program working with landholders</li> <li>• Council and industry resources including working with private providers</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul> |
| <p>Waipā Catchment Plan</p>  | <p>Development of the Waipā Catchment Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between council, Waipā Zone Liaison Subcommittee<sup>1</sup> and river iwi</li> <li>• Co-funded by the Waikato River Authority</li> <li>• Response to new co-management framework and joint management agreements with iwi</li> <li>• Reflects the aspirations of river iwi and stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>Aspects that are similar to the way council used to do things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting landowners to undertake works on the ground to improve water quality</li> </ul>  |

<sup>1</sup> Now the Waipa Catchment Committee

| Outline | Key Points  |
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|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary approach</li> <li>• Providing financial subsidies and information</li> </ul> <p>Aspects that are different to the way council used to do things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritised and integrated 'whole of catchment' approach</li> <li>• Refining areas of risk, targeting works, increased level of support to those undertaking works in priority areas</li> </ul> <p>Levels of service to landholders in the catchment for soil conservation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Landholders in Priority Area 1 for soil conservation can receive funding up to 70% for works identified in property plans (co-funded by WRC and WRA)</li> <li>2. Landholders in Priority Area 2 for soil conservation can receive funding up to 35% for works (funded by WRC)</li> <li>3. Landholders outside the priority areas can receive advice, information and support in sourcing materials eg poles for planting</li> </ol> <p>Main strategies in the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property and farm plans focusing on key matters (e.g. biodiversity, water quality conservation)</li> <li>• Funding incentives and assistance</li> <li>• Development of information e.g. user guides, promotion</li> <li>• Some investigation/evaluation e.g. cost benefit of programmes,</li> <li>• Programmes/initiatives of work e.g. biodiversity protection and restoration initiatives, wetland protection and restoration</li> <li>• Work with industry to promote practices</li> </ul> <p>Support on offer – assistance development of property or farm plan, targeted funding to carry out works</p> <p>Who is involved – working with stakeholders/the community/landholders<br/>Waipa Zone subcommittees input?</p> <p><u>What next?</u><br/>Approach the development of the property plan templates (and identifying mitigations), approach to implementation<br/>How do Council and Plan partners check on works completed?<br/>Implementing Sustainable Milk Plans in priority catchments to address water quality</p> |

## References

Waikato Regional Council 2007. Waikato Regional Plan. Environment Waikato (Regional Council) Policy Series 2007/21. Waikato Regional Council: Hamilton.

Waikato Regional Council 2014. Waipā catchment plan. Waikato Regional Council Technical Report 2014/33. Waikato Regional Council: Hamilton

## Maps as handouts

From Waipā Catchment Plan:

Map 1 – Priority 1 and 2 soil conservation sub catchments

Map 2 – High priority rivers/streams for river management works

Map 6 – Priority nutrient areas for nutrient load reduction