

Mahi Tahī – Hui

Between the Two Rivers, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council
and Hastings District Council

Rūnanga Marae

November 6 2023, 1.30-4.30 pm

AGREED ACTIONS DISCUSSION

Attending: Xan Harding, Anna Madarasz-Smith, Anthony Tipene-Matua, Richard Wakelin, Carl Nicholson, Ana Apatu, Craig Thew, Andrew Russell, Mary Tukiwaho, Jenny Mauger, Tom Lowry, Kit Rutherford, Steph Howard.

Action		Due by
Structural support work of the Dorward’s Bridge (interim/short-term solution)	HDC to provide detail for circulation with the community	Friday, November 10
Visibility for community over roading issues and repairs	HDC to report on progress and publication dates	<i>Update: 13.10</i> Work to date and forward plan sent
HDC analysis on why the Taihape Road has flooded	HDC to send for circulation in community	Friday, November 10
LiDAR of area around Taihape Road flooding hotspots	HDC to share with B2R with labels	<i>Update: 13.10</i> Done
HBRC workshop with landholders on rights and duties of landholders re waterways	HBRC to come back with date	Monday, November 21
One-pager on who is responsible for what during floods	B2R to draft and HDC and HBRC to review	TBC [In time for workshop]
HBRC reports and analysis on Okawa-Rūnanga-Ōhiti	HBRC to [organise] for all pre-2007 reports to be uploaded onto the HBRC website	TBC (next meeting)
	Investigate development of a landing page for Ōhiwia subcatchment/ Okawa-Rūnanga-Ōhiti	TBC (next meeting)
	Bibliography to be done	To discuss

Six-weekly, 1-hour Zoom meetings of this group	<p>Steph H to circulate doodle poll to arrange a day for December and notify dates for first quarter of 2024</p> <p>HBRC to check in with Ian Maxwell, who returns from secondment late November, about his participation in this group</p>	<p><i>Update 13.10</i></p> <p>Poll with these minutes</p> <p>End November</p>
Mātauranga Māori	<p>There was a substantial kōrero on Mātauranga. Consensus was that the Mātauranga Māori and western science complement one another. B2R is bringing the two together and will continue to do so. Requires followup.</p>	<p>Immediately</p>
Hydrological analysis of flowpaths in the area	<p>HBRC and B2R to work together on pitch for resourcing</p>	<p><i>Update: 13.10</i></p> <p>HBRC already progressing this</p>
Ōhiwia Subcatchment Strategy Group	<p>B2R to identify the makeup of the group</p>	<p>End-November</p>
Shanley Road Esplanade Reserve	<p>Community to come up with a plan for management</p> <p>HDC to explore possible HDC resourcing to assist with options analysis</p>	<p>Along with catchment strategy</p> <p>TBC</p>
LiDAR	<p>Pre-Cyclone (2021) of entire region overlaid with more recent [partial] Post-Cyclone LiDAR can be used in the interim, until post Cyclone LiDAR is ready</p>	<p>To resolve:</p> <p>Access to pre- and post-Cyclone LiDAR and overlay</p>
Wānanga on Lake Rūnanga-Ohiti	<p>B2R is holding this wānanga. Further details to come</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>(February 2024)</p>

Notes from the discussions

1. Dorwards' Bridge – HDC

HDC is planning holding work to keep the structure strong until a longer-term solution can be identified.

The longer-term design is dependent on the rivers and flowpaths HDC is looking at the LiDAR to understand changes to land and flow paths and Okawa and what has caused more frequent flooding over the road. The preference is not to lift up the bridge and/or road.

It is in conversation with Waka Kotahi to look at options to both the bridge and the road.

HDC noted that maintenance of infrastructure (including strengthening) is not put out for community consultation. However, if the longer-term solution does require significant redesign and/or building new structures, this does tend to go to the community for consultation.

ACTION: HDC will provide details that can be shared with the community on the proposed structural strengthening of the Dorwards' Bridge.

2. Community-facing information on Roading Issues

HDC said the HDC comms team is working to:

- Get a website page up for Roading Recovery that is separate from BAU roadings issues. Currently, information on cyclone-related road damage is sitting on the page for road closures.
- A newsletter (wailing wall) to update the community on general status on what's topical
- This is a priority and was discussed at the latest Council Recovery Strategy Meeting.

There was discussion that if the task is proving onerous to get the ideal format and information up, that the Council still gets information up that it has and can be readily uploaded to the website.

ACTION: HDC will confirm the timeframes for the newsletter and proposed website changes.

3. HBRC Website: Making reports, analysis on the Ōhiwia sub-catchment more accessible

The discussion started with the request from B2R for a dedicated Ōhiwia or Okawa-Rūnanga-Ohiti landing page on the HBRC website with links to relevant analysis, reports and planning documents.

HBRC said that this is a reasonable request and an approach that the Council took for the TANK process and that will be used to for the catchment context required for freshwater farm environment plans. Xan clarified with HBRC staff what the databasing issues are. While staff said that they are not clear on the architecture of the council online database, reports before 2016 are not posted on the website but archived and they said that these reports can be uploaded so they are accessible on the council website.

Another option raised by Kit is for the Council to provide a **bibliography of Council reports and analysis on the area**. HBRC said it would take just as long, if not longer, to compile a list as it would to upload pre-2016 documents to the Council website.

ACTION: HBRC to organise for all pre-2007 reports on Okawa-Rūnanga-Ohiti to be uploaded onto the HBRC website

Investigate development of a landing page for Ōhiwia subcatchment/Okawa-Rūnanga-Ōhiti

Bibliography of all analysis to be done; timing to be discussed.

4. HBRC Workshop with Okawa Stream community on legal rights and responsibilities for waterways

The commitment to hold a workshop on this was made by Nic Peet at the September 28 meeting.

ACTION: HBRC staff is to clarify this within two weeks with the preferred option to hold this workshop before Christmas due to the amount of earthworks currently being done in and around waterways by landholders.

5. One-pager for the community on statutory body responsibilities for waterways in flooding events

HDC forwarded a paper outlining statutory responsibilities of various government bodies (local and central) in the event of flooding.

ACTION: B2R to draft a summary of this document for review by councils.

6. Regular 6-weekly meetings of this group

Six-weekly meetings of this group were agreed on the basis that they would be mostly by Zoom for an hour. The agenda would be circulated in advance and other staff from Councils would join, as needed, to address the matters on the table. The meetings would be Chatham House, to allow for full frank conversations. Documents would be treated as confidential as required.

ACTION: Steph H to be in touch with a doodle poll to lock in a meeting before Christmas and well as meetings well into the new year

HBRC **Acting Group Manager Integrated Catchment Management** brief Ian Maxwell when he returns from secondment to resume that role and discuss who will represent HBRC on the group.

7. Catchment Strategy

Kit introduced B2R's intention to develop a catchment strategy that moves beyond the community's top-of-mind anxieties such as roading. He said that the best catchment strategies he has seen immediately zero in on the conflicts and problems to get these in the open and to enable honest conversations. He also pointed out that good strategies need detailed analysis across a range of disciplines.

He also said that the community doesn't want to wait for 3 years until the Council finishes testing to determine whether lake Rūnanga-Ohiti is in the D-Band because there is already enough evidence to draw that conclusion.

Consensus from that discussion:

- There is nothing to stop action planning now
- Strategy should be done by a smaller group and then taken out to the wider community to agree and develop an action plan from there.

The discussion also traversed the Freshwater Farm Environment Plans (FFEP), which will require landholders who have to have an FFEP to have regard for the catchment context. Due to the Cyclone, Hawke's Bay has had the implementation date for Freshwater Farm planning until end 2025 (or thereabouts). That catchment context includes issues of importance to tangata whenua and iwi-approved management plans. On this point, Jenny noted that Māori are perennially having to work through the constructs that the Crown imposes on them. She noted that the Crown and others prefer to deal with iwi, such that hapū management plans get relegated to the bottom draw.

Xan asked if the council is ready to act on this opportunity. HBRC Māori Partnerships team are working with hapū on this.

8. Strategy Group

Ultimately it was agreed that:

- the strategy group that develops the Ōhiwia Catchment Strategy would need to include other members of the community so that it is bottom-up and owned by the community (noting the above observations about strategy development)
- the membership of the strategy group and this Mahi Tahī group would overlap
- there may come a time when the Mahi Tahī group dissolves into the strategy group.

ACTION: B2R to get a strategy group together and report back at the first 6-weekly Zoom call.

9. Mātauranga Māori: Align mātauranga, monitoring & planning into Councils' work, starting with Ohīwia (Okawa-Rūnanga-Ohiti)

Kit opened the discussion by noting that in his view, the perception that Mātauranga Māori and Western science are separate and that one can proceed with one and leave the other behind is wrong. He pointed out that's not just his view as a scientist: legislation such as the National Policy Statement on Freshwater says that's wrong. On that basis, he concluded, what can we do to make it happen?

A HBRC staff member said that the quick answer is yes, of course they are and should be aligned. However, in their view, it is not appropriate for them as a western scientist to talk about Mātauranga. They also do not think it is a question of integration and favours the models such as the *waka hourua* (double-hulled waka) or *he awa whiria* (a braided river-system) that reflect distinct systems that work together. They noted that ultimately it comes down to Hapū and what Mātauranga they want to be in the public domain. They said that Te Kaha Hawaikirangi's team is not looking at how Mātauranga Māori as determined by hapū can be brought into Te Mana o te Wai.

Jenny M talked about her training and experience and the ongoing challenges and barriers to having Mātauranga acknowledged and informing decisions. There are many people in the community who have a lifetime's lived-in experience and knowledge of a place yet are not accorded the respect that experience deserves. She noted that there are very sobering reasons as to why people are around the table and wanting to see changes for the better and those personal histories are relevant. She also noted that younger people are so much more steeped in Mātauranga. Her ambition is to see a fully resourced MM team of Mātauranga Māori scientists at the council. She believes that the HBRC budget is big enough to embrace that.

HBRC Maori Partnerships Team said that the challenge is to keep it simple. It's easy to make it all seem too hard. Pākehā don't feel comfortable talking about Mātauranga because they don't have the expertise and see it as a threat. However, tangata whenua will listen to Pākehā such as Pat Parsons talk about Mātauranga because they do have the expertise.

On confidentiality: the minutes of the Māori Land Courts are replete with Mātauranga and Māori didn't hold back because their mana was on the line. The younger generations are so ahead on Mātauranga Māori now.

Bringing Mātauranga Māori forward into the community is a big job but there are clear places to start from: the whakapapa of the place, and the pūrakau (the stories) that relate to the place. But Pākehā also need to be clear on whether they need to go into or have access to the deep korero that doesn't belong to them.

Kit said that Mātauranga Māori and western science are not different. They both work with values, objectives, attributes and targets

In a catchment strategy, the rubber hits the road where we start arguing about priorities – when m value is more important than your value. That needs to be brought out in the open. He gave an example from the Waikato River – while tangata whenua and Pākehā practices are different, they converge on the outcomes they want – a river that is healthy and that allows the people to be able to do what is important to them, to their beliefs and traditions.

Mary talked about Mātauranga Māori methods for testing water and monitoring koura and about her conversations with Kit comparing notes about different methods from hapū in different parts of the motu.

Andrew said that this is what B2R is all about. We are not different – we are the same and we will be doing this together. We are bringing what we know together – we have started with that and we will continue to do so.

ACTION: B2R is already working from both Mātauranga Māori and western science, albeit at the start of that journey. In terms of how this is part of practical and effective working relationships with councils, there are as yet no concrete actions or commitments.

10. Shanley Road Esplanade Reserve

HDC confirmed that due to the small size and nature of the Shanley Road Esplanade Reserve, this would not require an Individual Reserve Management Plan. If the community were to come up with a proposal for its use, Council staff would put it to the Rural Community Board first and then to the wider council. As long as the plans were sound and no significant investment were required from Council, there would likely be council support to manage the reserve to assist with flood protection and/or ecological restoration. It was agreed that a proposal for how the

reserve could play either or both roles would come once further information – flow modelling etc – were at hand.

ACTION: HDC to discuss whether there is any resource available to assist the community come up with a plan.

11. Hydrological Analysis of the Area Post-Cyclone

HBRC staff and Xan both said that the HBRC hydrological analysis team have a full work-programme for around the next 5 years at least. Xan asked whether it would be possible to find an external provider to do this work. HBRC suggested that the MfE funded brokerage, Access2Experts would be a place to try to get such resourcing.

ACTION: HBRC and B2R to work on an approach to A2E.

12. LiDAR

HBRC said that a whole-of-region LiDAR was done in 2021. Post Cyclone, NIWA did a partial LiDAR – covering small pockets of the region – but there are some issues with the data. Since then, MBIE and MfE have funded a complete LiDAR of the entire region. It will not be ready until mid-2024.

HBRC said that until the new LidAR is completed, the partial, post-Cyclone LiDAR could be used but she cautioned that it should not be relied upon for decision-making due to the issues with the data. LiDAR is high-risk if not sufficiently robust data. Staff suggested using the Pre-Cyclone LiDAR with the Post-Cyclone data overlaid could be a way to go for now, with done LiDAR if there were gaps to resolve.

HDC said that normally HBRC would take the lead on this type of analysis but due to the roading issues – which are largely HDC’s department, they have done some initial analysis.

ACTION: Not discussed but for resolution: how groups like B2R can access the post-Cyclone LiDAR and assistance to overlay the LiDAR for analytical purposes.

HDC to provide the mapping – with labels – that HDC has used to try to get a better understanding of the causes of more frequent flooding on that stretch of Taihape Road between Dorwards’ and Lake Rūnanga-Ohiti.

13. Other

- **Mailouts to the community:** B2R experience with NZPost mailing out newsletters and community meeting invitations hasn’t been ideal. Tom asked whether the council could send out **B2R communications** in routine mailouts to the community. There was agreement that there are statutory restrictions on what councils can use mailing lists (effectively personal data) for.

ACTION: HBRC will forward the name of a business that can be contracted to do such mailouts. HDC to check on whether it would be feasible to include a B2R newsletter or similar in routine Council mail.

- HBRC mentioned an **HBRC “nature-based solutions” project on flood protection** that is looking at how to retain water in the landscape