



# REGIONAL FORUM

People Water and Land – *Te Mana o te Tangata, te Wai, te Whenua*

## RECORD OF WORKSHOP

Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 February 2020

Phase 2, Workshop 7 held at Murihiku Marae, Invercargill

### Present

Mata Cherrington  
David Diprose  
Bernadette Hunt  
Jade Maguire  
Paul Marshall  
Phil Morrison (deputy chair)  
Ewen Pirie  
Lisa Pearson  
Ewen Pirie  
Hayden Slee

Fiona Smith (chair)  
Vaughan Templeton  
Estelle Pera-Leask

### Apologies

Michelle Roberts  
Joyce Kolk  
Kelsi Hayes  
Phil Morrison (Day 1)  
Bernadette Hunt (Day 2)

### Consensus was reached on:

1. It was agreed that forum members would hold a further half day workshop on 10 March 2020 to finalise their report to governance. The forum members agreed to provide feedback on the further draft of the Phase Two report via email to the People, Water and Land programme manager prior to the workshop.

*The group consensus aligned with the guidance laid out in Regional Forum Terms of Reference.*

### Other areas of discussion:

Following the Powhiri and morning tea, Mike Trent opened the workshop with a karakia.

The chair, Fiona Smith acknowledged the warm welcome from the runanga. She led a discussion amongst the forum members as to their experiences since the last workshop in Winton in November 2019.

Bonny Lawrence, the People, Water and Land programme manager set the scene for the workshop, discussing the importance of considering the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku information, which would be received over the two days, alongside the information already shared around the communities values and freshwater objectives.

## **Regional Forum Project Update**

Bonny outlined that interviews for the Regional Forum Lead have been completed, albeit with a delay due to the emergency response to the flooding in early February, and she hopes to appoint someone soon.

Barbara Nicholas (Regional Forum facilitator) outlined the approach for the second phase of the forum's work, which is focused on Southlander's values and objectives for freshwater. This workshop (Workshop 7) is the third workshop in Phase Two. The focus of this workshop is on the Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku values and draft freshwater objectives.

## **Values and objectives package – Iwi Draft Freshwater Objectives**

Mike Trent, cultural kaituitui lead, introduced Maria Bartlett who has developed the Iwi Draft Freshwater Objectives, working with the runanga and Te Ao Marama Inc. Mike also introduced Ailsa Cain who has supported Maria's work and co-presented the morning session.

Ailsa and Maria provided an overview of the background and context relevant to the setting of draft iwi freshwater objectives. They provided an introduction to the customary and statutory framework that applies to the draft objectives, and included a discussion of key concepts informing the objectives – Ki Uta Ki Tai, Te Mana o te Wai, Hauora and Mahinga Kai.

Te mana o te wai is about the integrity and status of the water, which in turn is affected by the mauri, which consists of the essential qualities necessary for the life force, ecosystem, energies and special nature of the wai. Hauora is the state necessary to positively influence the mauri o te wai.

Mahinga kai for Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku refers to interests in traditional gathering of food and other natural resources and the places where those resources are obtained. Practicing mahinga kai is very important for the cultural and economic well-being of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku and it is essential for the ability to hand down mahinga kai tikanga from one generation to the next. There is a great cultural risk of tikanga and knowledge being lost when mahinga kai cannot be practised.

Maria and Ailsa spoke of the intrinsic importance and how deeply woven, water is to the very identity of Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku as a taonga: which carries with it a non-negotiable responsibility of kaitiakitanga, to ensure that what is being passed on to future generations is in a better condition than that currently experienced by the present generation. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku use "ki uta ki tai" to describe their holistic understanding of freshwater ecosystems and how the health and well-being of the people are fundamentally linked to the natural environment.

Ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea) recognises the movement of water through the landscape and the numerous interactions it may have on its journey. It acknowledges the connections between the atmosphere, surface water, groundwater, land use, water quality, water quantity, and the coast. It also acknowledges the connections between people and communities, people and the land, and people and water. It is a significant connection, not just a value. Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku recognise there are indeed consequences from actions and activities that we all undertake throughout our daily lives.

They spoke of the relationship between some Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku Indicators of Health<sup>1</sup> and some of the water quality measures being explored by the Regional Forum, where there is overlap and where additional indicators have been identified by mana whenua.

Maria then described the specific objectives and supporting information for the Freshwater Management Units (FMU's) starting with Fiordland and Islands and Waiau. On the Wednesday morning the discussion continued with Maria describing the specific objectives and supporting information for the Oreti, Aparima, Maitua FMU's and proposed Waituna FMU.

The report will be available online as part of the Values and Objectives package in mid 2020.

The Forum discussed the intersection between the values and interests of the wider community and Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku. They talked about how to raise awareness of the wider community of the commonality and also differences.

The different National Policy Statements were raised and how they each sit alongside one another. For example the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation.

### **Field Trip – Waituna Lagoon**

Forum members travelled to the Warnock's Farm to view and discuss the constructed wetland and the nitrate catcher trial and then went on to visit Waituna Lagoon. The Forum were joined by staff from some of the agencies involved in the Whakamana te Waituna work programme including: Dean Whaanga from Te Ao Marama, Chris Hankin from DOC, Cain Duncan from Fonterra, Jonathan Streat and Katrina Robertson from Environment Southland, and Justin Adams who is the Project Manager. Raewyn Van Gool, a local landowner also came along.

#### Warnock's Farm

Katrina Robertson explained that the focus at Warnock's Farm was on trialling a cost effective, constructed wetland located in an area showing relatively high levels of nutrients in the waterway. The intention is to use this wetland as a 'proof of concept' within the catchment to inform further work.

She explained that the design for the constructed wetland was finalised in November 2013, and construction on the wetland pond (for reducing nitrogen levels in the water) was completed by the end of March 2014. With advice from NIWA, two filter beds were constructed in December 2014 at the bottom of the wetland pond to reduce phosphorus levels in the water. One contains lime rock as the filtration media, and the other oyster shell. Native riparian species were planted around the wetland and filter beds in 2014 and 2015. Plants that are particularly good at removing N out of the system were planted within the wetland.

Forum members and Waituna stakeholders discussed some of the barriers and drivers for change in relation to the trial at Warnock's Farm.

Some drivers for change were/are:

- understanding by community members (and wider stakeholders) of the value of Waituna Lagoon and that it is under stress
- good working relationship with the landowner

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<sup>1</sup> Cultural monitoring is a term often used to describe the use of Ngāi Tahu health indicators

- commitment from stakeholders and landowners to trial and test new ways of doing things
- funding from MfE (Fresh Start for Freshwater Clean-Up Fund) and stakeholders to enable the trial
- holding field days to enable members of the community to view the initiative (and other initiatives) in the Waituna Catchment
- involving the community in activities such as planting

Some barriers were/are:

- sourcing enough native species locally for filtering nitrogen
- pukeko removing nitrogen filtering species (which was overcome by cages to protect the plants until they got established)
- cost of construction was high (approximately \$120k) however this included specific requirements as part of the trial (e.g. an impermeable base/lined for monitoring, land owner agreements, consultant costs)
- cost and commitment to monitor the trial
- changes in staff delayed progress as new staff came up to speed with the project

### Waituna Lagoon

At the lagoon, forum members heard from the stakeholders about their experience supporting the Waituna programme.

Katrina Robertson explained that Waituna Lagoon is one of the best remaining examples of a natural coastal lagoon in New Zealand, and is unique in our region and to New Zealand. Because of many years of land development in the catchment, and changes in lagoon water levels, the health of Waituna Lagoon and its tributaries is under stress.

The primary concerns are the loss of nutrients and sediment from land use activities which are increasing the risk of the lagoon becoming eutrophic, as well as the loss of wetlands through land development. The management of lagoon opening events is also important as it influences ecosystem health and farm management practices.

Dean Whaanga explained that ensuring the wellbeing of the people, the land, the waters, the ecosystems, and the life-force of the Waituna catchment and lagoon, now and for future generations was the focus of the partnership approach.

*Mana oranga; Mana tangata; Mana ki uta; Mana ki tai; Mana Waituna*

Raewyn Van Gool and Cain Duncan spoke about what they have learnt through the process. Chris Hankin spoke about DOC operations in the Waituna. The forum members and Waituna stakeholders discussed some of the barriers and drivers for change in relation to the project to improve the health of the Waituna Lagoon.

Some drivers for change were/are:

- understanding by community members (and wider stakeholders) of the value of Waituna Lagoon and that it is under stress
- initial response driven by community concern for Waituna Lagoon as far back as 2001
- initial response in 2011 led by Environment Southland, multi-agency response from 2013 from those who have statutory responsibilities in the care and management of the Waituna catchment and lagoon (Environment Southland, the DOC, Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Southland District Council)
- commitment to Waituna Partners' Group from agencies and stakeholders
- recognition that success needs longevity, resources and community sense of ownership
- more is achieved if you work together

- good and regular communication (face to face discussions, newsletters, field days etc) with the community and key agencies is essential, alongside good documentation of discussions, meetings, project work etc. to help tell the story over time and also for reporting purposes

Some barriers were/are:

- the scientific reserve status of Waituna Lagoon since 1983 prevents cultural harvesting which prevents iwi from practicing mahinga kai
- some landowners are/were unclear on the issue (where and when the pollutant is happening) and what they should do, but most were keen to know what they needed to do straight away and get on with it rather than waiting on more science
- some concern over lack of affordable options and actions (however many farmers made changes straight away e.g. upgrading effluent systems etc. while waiting on new technology/things to be trialled)
- confusing information - too much and too complex
- some initiatives to improve health of waterways not recognised e.g. in OVERSEER e.g. wetlands and phosphorus losses)
- takes time to learn what works and for community to come on board, it is a journey so need to bring everyone along with you – some will come on board quicker than others
- some local community members were subject to a wider public backlash when the threat to the Waituna Lagoon's health became public (and the media put a particular spin on it). This wasn't anticipated nor managed well.
- genuine misinterpretation or lack of understanding/knowledge of iwi values

The forum members expressed their thanks to the stakeholders who joined the field trip and who had shared their experiences working on the Waituna programme.

### **Runanga session (on Tuesday evening)**

The runanga session was opened by Dean Whaanga who welcomed the runanga members, the Regional Forum and Environment Southland Councillors and staff. A panel session was facilitated by Dean whereby runanga members spoke about their experience and knowledge in relation to concepts such as ki uta ki tai, te mana o te wai, hauora and mahinga kai. Questions were raised by Dean, forum members and Councillors and much discussion followed. The Forum members acknowledged the time of the runanga members and how valuable they found the session.

### **Review of the forums report to Council and TAMI at the end of Phase Two including recommendations for practical action**

Barbara Nicholas, the Regional Forum facilitator worked through the forums draft report to Council and Te Ao Marama at the end of Phase Two. This report will accompany the Values and Objectives package and will include:

- A reflection of understanding of Southlanders values and objectives for freshwater
- A reflection of understanding of the challenge for Southland based on the current and future state of freshwater as defined by the draft freshwater objectives.
- Areas of focus for Phase Three
- Any recommendations for immediate practical action or to help inform the decisions ahead

The forum spent time considering the recommendations they would like to make for immediate practical action or to help inform the decisions ahead. They recrafted the ideas that they developed at the November 2019 workshop into three main themes:

1. Scoping a collective values-led hauora approach and framework for integrated catchment management, with a focus on sharing information, education and knowledge.
2. Development and maintenance of a one-stop shop for information, advice, and resources to help decision making and uptake of mitigation measures.
3. Review some consents and compliance processes where positive action is to be encouraged. Mapping the consents and compliance processes.

A further half day workshop was planned for 10 March to finalise the forums report to governance at the conclusion of Phase Two.

### **Key messages from the Regional Forum members**

- At this workshop, we spent time understanding and discussing iwi values for water.
- We would like to extend a special mihi to the kaumatua rangatira who welcomed us to Murihiku Marae and shared their wisdom throughout the two days, and especially to Trent (11 years old) for joining the runaka panel discussion and shared his perspective.
- At the marae we learned about the strong and enduring connection iwi have to their whenua and wai, which emphasised the importance that is placed on water. We also understand that water is part of all of our whakapapa. We see it in our place names around Southland.
- Over the two days it became very clear that the aspirations of our community align well with those aspirations from Ngāi Tahu ki Murihiku.
- We developed a deeper understanding of hauora, te mana o te wai, mahinga kai and ki uta ki tai. We explored the concept of a 'korowai' as a protection for the wai. The concept provided us with a way of recognising that each area or each catchment is unique and has its own mana.
- We appreciate the sharing of intergenerational knowledge, not just on the marae but also on our visit to Waituna. There we saw some key actions, including the constructed wetland trial, and learned more about the barriers and drivers of change from the perspective of various Waituna partners.
- We take on-board the different perspectives we've heard over the course of the last 10 months and understand that our environment is precious for many reasons, and that we all want to protect it for future generations.
- For the Regional Forum, the next step is to provide a report to Council and Te Ao Marama board members at the end of Phase Two. We've been reflecting on everything we've seen and heard, so this report will encompass our reflections on the barriers and drivers of change and the challenge ahead, and include some recommendations focused on getting action happening now to improve our water and help inform the decisions ahead, for us and the community.

The next workshop is scheduled for Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 July 2020. The location will be confirmed. This workshop will focus on the assessment and design criteria for scenario testing and the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan as the foundation for developing limits and methods. Details of a public session will be finalised closer to time.