

Meeting Title:	Recovered Water Working Group Meeting	
Date / Time:	Wednesday, 15 October 2025 at 10:00am	
Chair:	Andrew Moraes	
Attendees:	Her Worship, Mayor Tania Tapsell Stavros Michael Paul Warbrick Eric Cawte Damien White Dr Kepa Morgan (via zoom) Deliah Balle (via zoom) Wallace Haumaha (via zoom) Ian Gray	Councillor Greg Brown Hokimate Kahukiwa Nona Taute Hana Taipata Deryk Shaw Kerri-Anne Hancock Michelle Hingston Dylan Thorne Mary Pappon (Proxy for Marlene Bosch) Stefanie Barker
Minute Taker:	Jaimy Pablo	
Apologies:	Ella Tennent	

Agenda

Meeting opened

1. Welcome / Opening Karakia
2. Agenda
3. Introductions
4. Project Foundations and Context
 - Recovered water - Where it's going now.
 - How does the wastewater treatment plant currently work?
 - How will the wastewater treatment plant work from late 2026?
 - Wastewater treatment process explained.
5. Multi-Criteria Assessment Process
 - Council's directive to the Chief Executive
 - MCA Stage 1 explained.
 - MCA Stage 2 explained.
 - Solution pipeline
 - Working Group process explained
6. Working Group Terms of Reference
 - Scope of responsibilities
 - Approach to collaboration and decision-making
 - Feedback
 - Payment structure
7. Discussion / Questions
8. Closing Karakia

Meeting closed

Recovered Water Working Group Items / Actions

Meeting opened at 10:04am by Her Worship Mayor Tapsell.
The opening Karakia by Hokimate Kahukiwa.

Introductions

The Working Group members introduced themselves around the table as it is the first meeting.

- Acknowledged that due to sound technical issues, those online struggled to hear in-person attendees' introductions

Project Foundations and Context

An overview on where the recovered water is currently going and the limitations/constraints that we are facing.

Following discussion points were raised around how the Wastewater Treatment process is happening:

- The numbers surrounding how much of the target contaminants (N/P/E.Coli) the current forest TS removes and how much goes into the lake does not match in the information pack. A correction has been suggested by the members; the information is to be updated before re-circulation.
- Concern was raised on whether the presented numbers consider other variables, e.g. high rainfall. Members were reassured that the calculations include said variables and comprise part of the consent monitoring.
- It was further noted that the information does not include the breakdown of district's wastewater to the plant and where it is coming from. Said breakdown has been requested by the members. Broadly domestic with some industrial trade waste controlled by consents, geothermal and stormwater.
- Look into the future impacts into the future generations with an emphasis of the need for the requested data, as the first half of the current process is a controlled, known process but the final half is not as controlled and relies on nature. Resulting in some lack of confidence of the current data presented. The new upgraded plant will eliminate any uncertainties because all treatment to attain target levels will be controlled through microfiltration and UV treatment. So final recovered water will be achieving target quality levels.
- Emphasis on being aware of the scope that is within the catchment and the resulting discharge of the recovered water.
- Mentioned that the chemicals / minerals that is allowed to go into the Lake is dependent on the limits that Regional Policy Statement has set for the health of the Lake and set up by the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group. The Treatment Plant is only allowed to contribute no more than 5% of sustainable nitrogen and phosphorus levels in the lake. This will remain.

Action Point(s):

Assigned to;

1. Correction on the numbers in the "How does the WWTP Currently Work?" slide, as they do not match. Once corrected slide is to be circulated to the Working Group.	DT / SB
2. Breakdown of the science and the numbers within the wastewater and what is going into the Forest and Lake. Bring science evidence to the group to present.	DT / EC / RLC STAFF
3. To substitute a lot of the terms and technical topics into simple terms, for smoother understanding.	DT / EC / RLC STAFF
4. Regional Council to present to this group on bigger picture nutrients – how the WWTP limits / load fits with the RPS (farming, urban)	MP / MB
5. Regional Council may need to come back and present on the WWTP national guidelines	MP / MB

Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Process

The Chief Executive had presented Council's directive for him and the working group; to aim for a sustainable long-term solution and implanting said solution in a disciplined timeframe. This will be done through the Multi-

Criteria Assessment (MCA) process to test against each solution presented to the working group, which is broken down in two stages.

MCA Stage 1, solution must meet the following:

- Technical feasibility
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Fits with Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) allocated budget or less.

Chief Executive had clarified that the technical feasibility criteria is for the Working Group members to interpret as what may be considered as technically sound solutions.

Initial concerns were raised as to what is Council's interpretation of 'long-term' and how it may be affected by the constant change in the political change in terms of the legal and regulatory compliance. This is further established in the next stage of the MCA process.

Solutions that pass stage 1 will now undergo careful and extensive review against MCA stage 2 values:

- Relationships with mana whenua
- Community acceptance and support
- Environmental outcomes (Te Mauri O Te Wai/Health of Water alignment), including intergeneration outcomes.
- Total lifecycle cost
- Implementation risk

Each value has a relative weighing, and the Working Group will conduct a value-based assessments. Questions arose with how the weighing was defined, as it may result in solutions that receive a 'passing' score but it overall not the most agreeable solution. The Councillor had reassured that the relative weighing values was something that the Elected Members had agreed and voted on as the preferred method, it would be up to the Working Group to define adherence to each value and will encourage that each idea is heavily scrutinised.

Emphasis that the kōrero within the Working Group will be useful for future ideas.

The Chief Executive had indicated that the ideas for the solutions will be gathered from individuals, Te Arawa Entities, Lake's water quality society, and any others, before being fed through to the Members of the Working Group. Once the ideas are presented to the Working Group, they may establish any further specifications / dimensions about those ideas to consider and review.

Defined that there is a specific communication engagement with Mana whenua for each idea. However, the CE has indicated that it comes with a risk that it can become time-consuming if there are too many ideas, and that the Working Group will need to function collaboratively before engaging with stakeholders.

Further emphasis is placed that upon engagement it must reach outside the board, and that the Working Group has a rich and thorough engagement. This will be assisted and enabled by Council.

Action Point(s):	Assigned to;
1. A correction to be completed to the slide illustrating work to be undertaken under each phase prior to circulation.	SB
2. Working Group remuneration to be discussed and confirmed – confirm approach / how and when this will occur.	SB / IG

Working Group Terms of Reference

Due to limitations on time, the Terms of Reference section in the agenda and presentation was only briefly discussed. However, the members are satisfied that Terms of Reference will be a collaborative piece and that a draft will soon be circulated for them to provide their feedback.

Also, due to time limitations the remuneration for the Working Group was not discussed. Future discussion / work will need to be undertaken to confirm this.

Meeting closed with a closing Karakia at 12:11pm by Her Worship, Mayor Tapsell.

Next Meeting: 21 November 2025, 9:00am – 11:00am. Location TBC.