

# Minutes of the Rangitāiki River Forum Meeting held in Te Tapiri Conference Room, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa, 9 Koromiko Street, Murupara on Friday, 10 November 2017 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

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## Present:

**Chairman:** M Vercoe (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa)

**Deputy Chairman:** E Rewi (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare)

**Appointees:** M Araroa (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa), N Rangiaho (Tūhoe), I Kahukiwa Smith (Hineuru), Crs: T Kingi, R Harvey (Alternate) (Taupo District Council), G Johnston (Whakatāne District Council), D Love, K Winters, W Clark, M McDonald (Alternate) (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**In Attendance:** Taupo District Council: S Mavor (Senior Policy Advisor), D Bowden (Strategic Relationships Manager); Bay of Plenty Regional Council: S Stokes (Eastern Catchments Manager), N Willems (Team Leader Eastern & Rangitāiki Catchments), M Lee (Planner - Water Policy), H Simpson (Senior Treaty Advisor), M Kapa (Land Management Officer), S Pickles (Regulatory Compliance Team Leader), A Suren (Environmental Scientist), N Newman (Principal Advisor), S Kameta (Committee Advisor); B Hughes (Manager Policy & Strategy, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa), Sir M Cullen, R Piddington (Trustpower), R Goldsmith (Ryder Consulting), M Jones (Te Papa Atawhai – Department of Conservation), M Charles (Dam Operations, Aniwhenua Dam)

**Apologies:** Rev G Te Rire, E August (Alternate) (Ngāti Tuwharetoa (BOP) Settlement Trust), Cr T Marr (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), W Rangiwai (Alternate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare), T O'Brien (Alternate, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)

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## 1 **Opening Karakia and Mihi**

An opening karakia was provided by Earl Rewi, followed by a mihi from Miro Araroa to welcome Cr R Harvey and Cr M McDonald to their first Forum meeting.

## 2 **Apologies**

### **Resolved**

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum:**

- 1 **Accepts the apologies of Rev G Te Rire, E August, W Rangiwai, T O'Brien, Cr T Marr and for early departure: Cr D Love and M Araroa.**

Love/Rangiaho  
CARRIED

### 3 **General Business and Tabled Items**

Nil.

### 4 **Declaration of conflicts of interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### 5 **Previous Minutes**

#### 5.1 **Rangitāiki River Forum minutes - 29 September 2017**

##### **Resolved**

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Confirms the Rangitāiki River Forum Minutes of 29 September 2017, as a true and correct record.**

Love/Rangiaho  
CARRIED

### 6 **Report**

#### 6.1 **Appointment of Chairperson and 2018 Meeting Dates**

The report sought the appointment or reappointment of a Forum Chairperson and informed members of the meeting dates scheduled in 2018.

The Forum Chair vacated the chair for the item and the Deputy Chair assumed the chair.

##### **Resolved**

That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:

- 1 **Receives the report, Appointment of Chairperson and 2018 Meeting Dates;**
- 2 **Selects System B as the voting system to elect the Chairperson.**
- 3 **Approves the 2018 Rangitāiki River Forum Meetings dates as: 16 March; 8 June; 14 September, 7 December.**

Love/Araroa  
CARRIED

#### **Nominations for Chairperson**

The Deputy Chair called for nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Cr Clark nominated **Maramena Vercoe** and Cr Johnston seconded the nomination.

As no further nominations were received, the Deputy Chair announced nominations were closed. The Deputy Chair asked voting members for a show of hands to elect Maramena Vercoe as the Chairperson, which received unanimous support.

## Resolved

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Elects Maramena Vercoe as the Chairperson of the Rangitāiki River Forum.**

**Clark/Johnston  
CARRIED**

Maramena Vercoe assumed the Chair and thanked members for their support and vote of confidence.

## 7 Rangitāiki River Scheme Review

*Refer Tabled Document Number 1.*

Rangitāiki River Scheme Review Panel Chair Sir Michael Cullen gave a verbal narrative of the Rangitāiki River Scheme Review report findings for the April 2017 Flood Event. A copy of the report dated 18 September 2017 was provided to members at the meeting (refer Tabled Document Number 1).

Sir Michael explained the main reason identified for the failure of the College Road floodwall and complexities of other likely factors that may have contributed. Historical background was noted on the drainage and flood control schemes, with the need for them to be revisited to make allowances for river limits, flood water storage and re-creation of wetlands. He considered that the report's recommendations mirrored Te Ara Whanui o Rangitāiki and represented wider community interests, but that political buy-in would be required on the broader issues along with a long-term change in paradigm.

<sup>1</sup>Sir Michael responded to questions. Comment was raised that direct engagement with Ngāti Awa was needed when the Regional Council proposed to undertake consent activities that were the subject of the Review findings, that the consents would be referred to the respective Iwi affected by the proposed consent activities and that a report on such activities would go to the Forum. Sir Michael advised that consultation with respective Iwi post-review was outside the bounds of the Review Panel's responsibilities and would be a matter for the Regional Council to consider. In regard to river ramping, while this was not within the scope of the Review, the report had noted that ramping may have had a role in undermining bank stability and that reference had been made to a study currently underway on ramping.

The Forum Chair thanked Sir Michael for his presentation, commenting that the report had come in a timely manner for Forum partners to consider and progress further. Assurance was given that the report findings and recommendations had provided the Regional Council with a good steer and that its recommendations were at the forefront of the Regional Council's Long Term planning.

## Resolved

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the presentation, Rangitāiki River Scheme Review.**

**Love/Johnston  
CARRIED**

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<sup>1</sup> Refer amendment, Rangitāiki River Forum 16 March 2018

## 8 Reports

### 8.1 Taupo District Council - Rangitāiki River Catchment

*Refer PowerPoint Presentation Objective ID A2734934.*

Taupo District Council Senior Policy Advisor Sue Mavor and Strategic Relationships Manager Dominic Bowden presented Taupō District Council's functions, priorities and current and future roles and involvement anticipated within the Rangitāiki River Catchment. Ms Mavor noted that while not currently involved in the catchment, future opportunities to become directly involved in the Forum's work would come from Change 3 to the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement in relation to biodiversity, protection of Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Landscape Areas and water quality improvements.

Advice was received that considerations for incorporating Mātauranga Māori into planning processes may be looked at, but was currently in a fluid state.

#### Resolved

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Taupo District Council - Rangitāiki River Catchment.**

**Love/Rangiaho  
CARRIED**

### 8.2 Matahina HEPS: Certified Fish Passage Options Report

*Refer Tabled Document 2; PowerPoint Presentations Obj IDs A2740260, A2740262*

Regulatory Compliance Team Leader Steve Pickles and Trustpower representative Ryan Piddington presented on the recent certification of Trustpower's Fish Passage Options report for the Matahina HEPS. An outline was provided of the consent journey, conditions of consent, transfer methods and alternative options being considered for fish passage. Copies of the Fish Passage Options report (dated September 2017) were circulated to members at the meeting (refer Tabled Document Number 2).

Members were informed that investigations were underway on determining intake approach velocities to ensure tuna would be able to swim away from the intakes during migration periods. The options report recommended cessation of generation as an appropriate deflection method to complement the option of downstream passage over the spillway, which still required trialling using live eels. Multi-faceted options were being considered to provide for tuna migratory paths upstream.

Mr Piddington advised that the report certification outcomes had confirmed that the current trap and transfer method was still the best option for downstream and upstream passage, while other options were being considered. An outline was provided of design options being implemented to make the current method more workable and of other initiatives and partnerships that Trustpower would be interested in being involved with. Regarding data collection, Mr Piddington noted that Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) 2016/17 elver transfer data was well below previous years, illustrating seasonal variances and cycles over time. It was noted that two separate surveys on longfin and shortfin tuna transfers were currently occurring by Bill Kerrison and MPI.

It was noted that the original consent conditions had not been upheld and that consultation with Iwi had not occurred immediately prior to certification of the Fish Passage Options Report. Consideration was sought that fish passage design be undertaken in close cooperation with river Iwi, who relied on the expert advice of Mr Bill Kerrison. Concern was also raised that succession planning and the improved infrastructure design to support the current trap and transfer method had been slow to come and that it remained dangerous to use by an elder person.<sup>2</sup>

Staff detailed the comprehensive consultation that had occurred since the draft report was produced in early 2014 (refer Appendix 1 of the report), which included presenting to the Forum in March and July 2014 and engaging with the Tuna Steering Group in 2016. In response to questions raised, Mr Piddington advised that Trustpower was committed to consulting with and considering feedback from Iwi in relation to fish passage design, that they were currently discussing succession plans with Mr Kerrison and that in comparison to alternative methods, the current trap and transfer method provided the benefit of transferring elvers further upstream past Aniwhenua Dam.<sup>3</sup> Regarding the opportunity for Ngāti Awa to be involved in the monitoring of transfer results, Ms Hughes advised that Ngāti Awa would be more interested to work with Trustpower on alternative design options.

The Forum Chair was pleased that work and discussions was occurring on alternative methods however, challenged Trustpower to consider what was best for the tuna first and foremost.

The Forum Chair requested a plan and outline of timeframes for meeting the Fish Passage Options Report recommendations, succession plan for the trap and transfer programme and initiatives referred to in the last slide of the Trustpower presentation (as listed below) to be provided to the next Forum meeting scheduled in March 2018:

1. Utilise trap and transfer to support educational initiatives;
2. Desire for more active and regular engagement with Tuna Steering Group;
3. Collaborating with Pioneer/Southern Generation to take a catchment wide approach to Tuna migration;
4. Willingness to support more 'holistic' whole catchment approach to tuna habitat;
5. Desire to share knowledge of dam operations / complexity;
6. Continue to host RRF reps at relevant events – e.g Tuna Symposium;
7. Open to supporting community events.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Matahina HEPS: Certified Fish Passage Options Report.**

**Kingi/Araroa  
CARRIED**

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm and reconvened at 1:32 pm.

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<sup>2, 3</sup> Refer amendment – Rangitāiki River Forum 16 March 2018.

**Attendance**

Miro Araroa and Cr D Love left prior to the meeting reconvening.

**8.3 Potential for Establishing a Rohe Awa and Mahinga Mataitai within the Rangitāiki River**

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa Manager Policy & Strategy Beverley Hughes reinforced the invitation extended to Iwi partners of the Forum by Ngati Awa Customary Fisheries Authority (NACFA) member Charles Bluett to meet, consider and discuss the potential and pre-requisites for establishing a Rohe Awa and Mahinga Mataitai somewhere within the Rangitāiki River. She advised the report had been brought to the Forum's August meeting by Mr Bluett, to keep all Forum partners informed and to provide partner members the opportunity to support, contribute, input and provide advice to the Iwi and initiative at appropriate times. Ms Hughes outlined a range of questions in the report for Iwi and partners' discussion and advised of initial offers to contribute to the initiative, including the offer from Regional Council to contribute student time to assist with research and data collection.

Iwi members from Ngāti Manawa, Ngāti Whare, Tūhoe and Hineuru who were in attendance supported the invitation to meet with members of NACFA and initiate discussion. It was noted that Ngāti Manawa preferred a date early in 2018.

Consideration was raised regarding potential consequences of establishing a Mahinga Mataitai and the potential risks and implications for areas outside of a potential Rohe Awa and Mahinga Mataitai. Survey data for longfin tuna in inaccessible areas was also suggested. The opportunity for external stakeholders to contribute was noted.

**Resolved**

**That the Rangitāiki River Forum under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Potential for Establishing a Rohe Awa and Mahinga Mataitai within the Rangitāiki River.**
- 2 Notes a further report with recommendations will be received at a future date.**

**Kahukiwa Smith/Rangiaho  
CARRIED**

**9 Closing Karakia**

Earl Rewi closed the meeting with a karakia.

**The meeting closed at 1:50 pm.**