



Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Rārangi Take (Agenda)

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the next meeting of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group will be held in Mataatua Room, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Building, 5 Quay Street, Whakatane on:

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM

Fiona McTavish
Chief Executive
27 March 2024

Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Membership

Chairperson	Leith Comer (Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi)
Deputy Chairperson	Pouroto Ngaropo (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa)
Tangata Whenua Members One appointed representative each: Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitihi Ngāti Mākino Iwi Authority Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust	<i>Tīpene Marr (Alternate)</i> Awhi Awhimate <i>Laurance Tamati (Alternate)</i> Manu Glen (<i>Alternate</i>) Jim Schuster
Council Members One appointed member each: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Kawerau District Council Rotorua Lakes Council Whakatāne District Council	Chairman Doug Leeder <i>Cr Malcolm Campbell (Alternate)</i> Mayor Faylene Tunui <i>Deputy Mayor Aaron Rangihika (Alternate)</i> Cr Gregg Brown <i>Phill Thomass - Lakes Community Board (Alternate)</i> Mayor Victor Luca <i>Deputy Mayor Lesley Immink (Alternate)</i>
Quorum	Five members comprising: The Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson; and two Iwi members and two Council members.
Meeting frequency	Quarterly

Purpose

To support, co-ordinate and promote the integrated restoration of the mauri of the Tarawera Awa catchment.

Scope

The Strategy Group's scope covers the geographical area of the Tarawera River catchment, including its tributaries within the catchment area, as shown further below on map OMCR-102-032.

The Strategy Group is deemed to be a co-governance joint committee of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council; and is a permanent committee and must not be discharged unless all appointing organisations agree to the discharge.

Role

The functions of the Strategy Group are to —

- (a) develop a restoration strategy for the catchment, to be known as the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Document; and
- (b) monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy Document; and
- (c) run and oversee restoration projects as required under the Strategy Document; and
- (d) seek funding for the restoration projects as required by the Strategy Document; and
- (e) communicate with stakeholders and the wider community to explain how decisions made or activities affecting the catchment align, or could be aligned, with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and
- (f) establish 1 or more technical advisory groups as required, as outlined in section 134¹; and
- (g) seek the advice of a technical advisory group or the relevant local government in support of restoration activities; and
- (h) link stakeholders together so that activities that take place in the catchment, or that affect the mauri of the catchment, are compatible as far as possible with the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and
- (i) provide a framework to assist central government agencies and local government so that they may have regard to the common vision, objectives, and desired outcomes for the catchment; and
- (j) undertake any other function required to achieve the purpose of the Strategy Group.

Decision Making

The Strategy Group must make its decisions by vote at a meeting and strive to achieve consensus; and approach decision making in a manner that is consistent with, and reflects its purpose; and acknowledges, as appropriate, the interests of iwi in particular parts of the catchment.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson may vote on any matter, but do not have a casting vote.

¹ [s134 Ngāti Rangitihi Claims Settlement Act 2022](#)

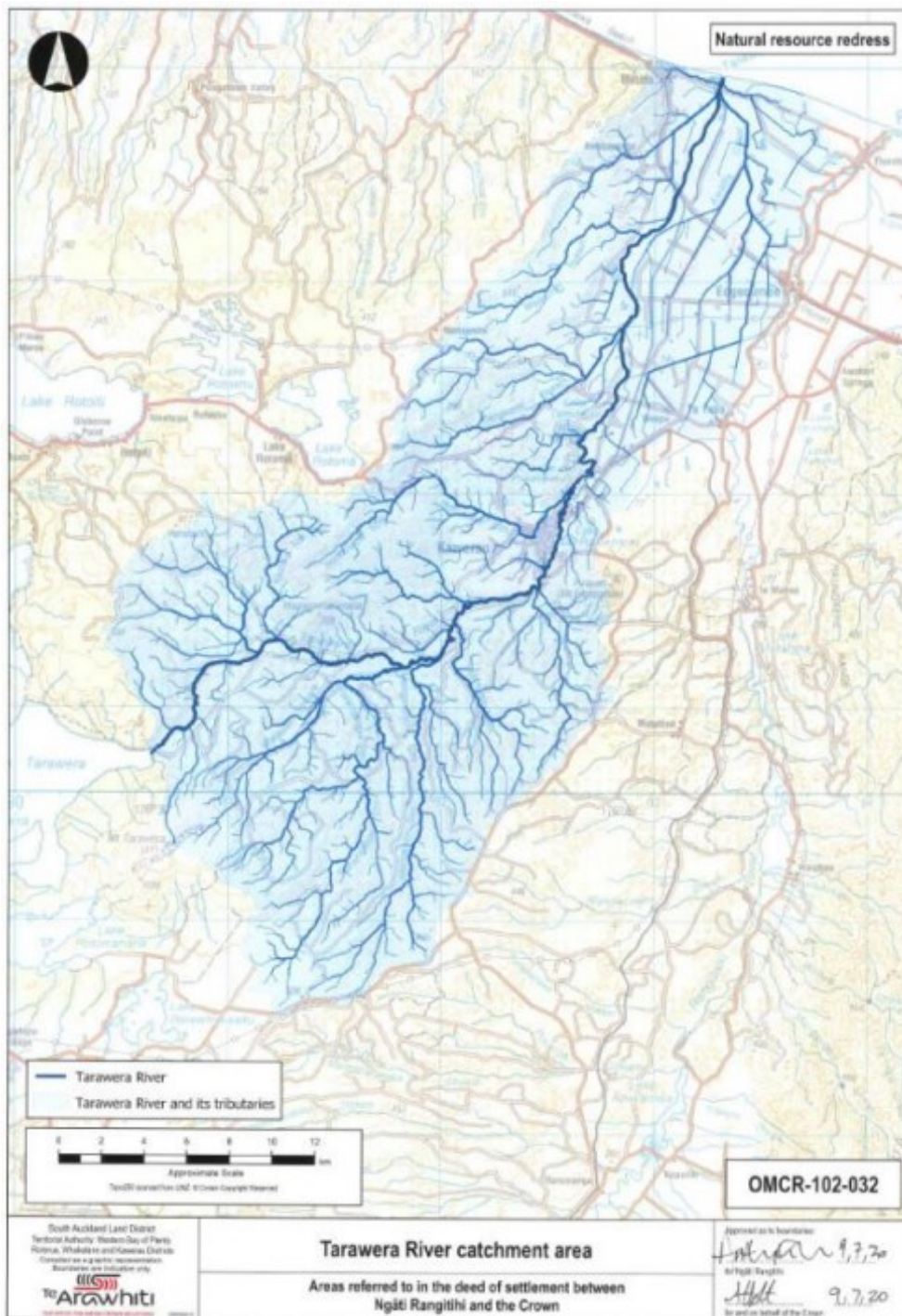
Power to Act

Except as provided for in the purpose above, the Strategy Group has discretion to determine in any particular circumstances whether to perform any function specified and how, and to what extent, any function specified is performed.

Power to Recommend

To the partner organisations on any matters within the Strategy Group's delegated role as it deems appropriate.

Strategy Group members report directly to their respective appointing organisations.

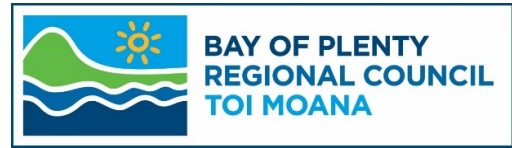


Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as policy until adopted.

Rārangi Take

Agenda

1. **Karakia Whakatuwhera
Opening Prayer**
2. **Ngā Hōnea
Apologies**
3. **Wāhanga Tūmatanui
Public Forum**
4. **Ngā Take Tōmuri
Items not on the Agenda**
5. **Raupapa o Ngā Take
Order of Business**
6. **Whakapuakanga o Ngā Take Whai Taha-Rua
Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
7. **Ngā Pūrongo
Reports**
- 8.1 **Chairperson's Report** **6**
 - Attachment 1 - Joint Submission of Co-Governance Iwi members to BOPRC LTP 2024-2034 9
 - Attachment 2 - Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa - BOPRC Draft LTP Submission 28 March 2024 (*Public Excluded*)
8. **Ngā Take Tōmuri Hei Whakaaroaro
Consideration of Items not on the Agenda**
9. **Karakia Kati
Closing Prayer**



Report To: Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group

Meeting Date: 27 March 2024

Report Authoriser: Leith Comer, Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group Chair

Chairperson's Report

Executive Summary

The report seeks endorsement from the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group of a joint submission, and letter of support of the Matatā Wastewater Project, for submitting to Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC) Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Recommendations

That the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group:

- 1 Receives the report, Chairperson's Report;**
- 2 Endorse the proposed joint submission (Attachment 1) of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group and Rangitāiki River Forum iwi members to the BOPRC Long Term Plan 2024-2034 to be signed by the Co-Governance Chairs;**
- 3 Endorse a letter of support of the Matatā Wastewater Project, to be prepared and signed by the Strategy Group Chair and attached to Te Nīotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa's submission to the BOPRC Long Term Plan 2024-2034;**
- 4 Agrees to the Chair making any necessary minor grammatical and formatting amendments to the joint submission and letter of support.**

1. Purpose

As the Chair of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG), I wish to seek the TARSG's endorsement of the attached joint submission prepared on behalf of Co-Governance iwi members, and preparation of a letter of support for Te Nīotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa's Matatā Wastewater Project submission, to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's (BOPRC) Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

The closing date for submissions to BOPRC's Long Term Plan is Tuesday 9 April 2024, before the Strategy Group's next meeting scheduled on 31 May 2024.

1.1 Joint Submission to the BOPRC Long Term Plan 2024-2034

The joint submission of the Co-Governance Chairs and iwi members of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG) and Rangitaiki River Forum (RRF) (refer Attachment 1) is to seek the continuation of financial support over the next three years for co-governance secretariat support for both co-governance committees within BOPRC's Long Term Plan 2024-2034. The submission is provided for information (refer Attachment 2).

The submission provides information about the secretariat position's establishment, purpose and role, financial outlay and future work plan.

1.2 Letter of support of the Matatā Wastewater Project

A letter of support is proposed to express the Strategy Group's endorsement of Te Nīaotanga ō Mataatua ō Te Arawa's Matatā Wastewater Project submission to BOPRC's Long Term Plan 2024-2034. The submission is provided for information (refer Attachment 2).

Key submission points that relate to the Matatā Wastewater Project align with the overarching aspiration of mauri restoration of Te Awa o te Atua and Tarawera Awa.

A letter of support from the Strategy Group would:

- a) endorse the co-design intent of Te Nīaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa, as it reflects a greater commitment to a Te Tiriti based approach to seeking improved solutions for the long-standing issue of Matatā wastewater management.
- b) acknowledge the relationships of iwi who hold strong affiliations with Matatā and recognises the importance of ensuring social, cultural, health, economic, and environmental well-being are centered in decision-making.
- c) advise a key aspiration of the Strategy Group is to ensure that the mauri of waters that stem from the source at the Tarawera Lake out to the sea, are improved and protected.
- d) support the proposal of land-based application systems for treated wastewater, as a preferred option, which has been arrived at as an outcome of a comprehensive parameter setting workstream of the project, involving the participation of all members of the co-design group (i.e. Iwi, Whakatane District Council staff and councillors, and technical experts).

2. Financial Implications

Financial implications relating to the above matters will be a consideration for BOPRC's decision making as part of its Long Term Plan 2024-2034 process.

Tuhinga Tautoko Attachments

Attachment 1 - Joint Submission of Co-Governance Iwi members to BOPRC LTP 2024-2034



Attachment 2 - Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa - BOPRC Draft LTP Submission 28
March 2024 [↓](#)(Public Excluded)²

Item 7.1

² Refer Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group minute 27 March 2024 – a resolution was passed at the meeting to transfer Report Attachment 2 into the Public Excluded section. Accordingly, the Agenda has been amended and republished to remove it.

Submission to the Long-Term Plan 2024

Introduction

1. This joint submission is made by the iwi members of the Rangitaiki River Forum (RRF) and the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group (TARSG) and include financial information for both groups as well as Te Maru o Kaituna.
2. Iwi representatives serve alongside Regional and District Councillors as members of the Forums and participate in co-governance decision making, thereby being the respective voice of the Rangitaiki River and Tarawera River

Background

3. Both river entities (RRF & TARSG) have been through an establishment phase. The RRF has prepared and completed their river plan which is due for review in 2025. TARSG is still developing their river plan having been established at the end of 2022.
4. The establishment of the RRF and creation of their River document took place over many years. They are now in a development phase which can be characterised by building strong leadership, robust advocacy and capability that extends across that region that is visible in all communities.
5. The establishment of the TARSG has been rapid and a project team to lead the completion of a river document, is nearly complete.
6. This submission is to request continued secretariat funding for the next 3 years to provide support to the iwi members of both of these committees.

Secretariat 2022-2024

7. The position of Secretariat was established in 2022 and is externally contracted. This position provides independent support to the co-governance Chairs which contributes towards the delivery of outputs and effective efficiencies. As Chairs, our role is additional to our roles in paid work and iwi/hapu responsibilities. Having this position enables us to delegate management of tasks so that we can maintain our focus on the work programme designed to deliver our respective objectives.
8. Independent expert RMA advice is needed as a Council Officer will not be able to provide the same level of independence, nor should they be expected to. Ensuring continued autonomy and distance from Council in terms of the advice we seek is important to the Forums. Advice and support from the current Secretariat has been extremely helpful and pivotal to enabling the Forums to focus on their objectives.
9. The following tables set out the support provided to each Forum and associated costs:

Secretariat tasks undertaken for each committee by year

Committee	March 2022 – 30 June 2022		1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023	
Te Maru o Kaituna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Tapuika Claims Act Arranged multiple engagements between TMoK iwi members and MfE regarding changes to the RMA Provided support to the Pātaka Kai including drafting an H&S plan and payment to Project Lead as approved by Chair Attended committee meetings and provided advice as required Attended meeting with Councillor Dally re environmental project in Te Puke Attended multiple hui with BOPRC regarding funding process for Wai Māori funding Interviewed and engaged web developers in partnership with BOPRC comms staff Review WBOPDC website for District Plan and LTP timeframes Initial Symposium planning Taheke 8C closing submission Quarterly report Completed 12-month work programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website designed and completed including seeking branding files from Law Creative Undertook website training for TMoK website Continued planning for Symposium including drafting and sending out sponsorship letters and speaker requests Provided support to the Chair through the hearings for RPS Change 5 including reviewing submissions and providing advice Attended committee meetings and provided advice as required Communications plan completed Sought and provided legal advice regarding potentially establishing a Charitable Trust Arranged and attended Rangiuuru Business Park site visit 	
	Amount	Description	Amount \$	Description
Costs	\$20,000.00	James O'Callaghan (Pātaka Kai Project Lead)	\$4,063.11	Secretariat
	\$3,410.15	Website Developer	\$5,925.00	Website updates and Communications Plan
	\$26,726.89	Secretariat		
	\$50,137.04		\$9,988.11	Total

Note: Secretariat support to Te Maru o Kaituna ended on 30.6.23 at the request of BOPRC.

Committee	March 2022 – 30 June 2022		1 July 2022– 30 June 2023		1 July 2023 – 30 Jan 2024	
Rangitaiki River Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted in arranging multiple engagements between RRF iwi members and MfE regarding changes to the RMA Attended committee meetings and provided advice as required Review Treaty settlement legislation, river document and workplan Complete 12-month work programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended committee meetings and provided advice as required Arranged for Chair to attend Rangitaiki/Tarawera Advisory Group Inducted new Hineuru members and ensured they had hard copies of River document Connected Hineuru members with relevant Council staff regarding water testing in the upper Rangitaiki catchment End of financial year secretariat report Source and engage Web developer Inducted new member for Ngāti Whare 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial website presented to committee Sought legal advice regarding potentially establishing a Charitable Trust Organised and ran 2x water workshops with iwi members Provided Māori land rating advice/guidance for iwi members Attended committee meetings, asked relevant questions and provided reports Sourced and engaged website developer Arranged for RRF and Chair to attend MfE hui with TMoK regarding proposed RMA changes in light of new government Sourcing drone operator to take video footage for website and other communication platforms 	
	Amount \$	Description	Amount \$	Description	Amount \$	Description
RRF Costs	\$14,938.64	Secretariat	\$8,912.28	Secretariat	\$1,244.70	Secretariat
			\$7,973.00	Web Developer		
Total	\$14,938.64		\$16,885.28		\$1,244.70	

Committee	March 2022 – 30 June 2022		1 July 2022– 30 June 2023		1 July 2023 – 30 Jan 2024	
Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group	Attended committee hui and online hui including pre and post agenda hui		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source and read Treaty legislation • Assisted with development of Terms of Reference and Standing Orders • Attended committee and iwi members hui as required including pre and post agenda hui • Various hui re contractors for river document • Draft contract and job description for document writer (including meetings with BOPRC staff, Frances and Keri) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source compliance data for consents • Created restoringtarawera@gmail account • Set up stakeholder database and sent out initial stakeholder letter • Arranged and attended meetings with BOPRC communications staff re branding • Arranged meetings with web designer/comms staff re branding for website • Arranged for TARSG Chair and Project Manager to attend MfE hui with TMoK regarding proposed RMA changes in light of new government • Provided advice regarding potential engineer including attending interviews • Arranged stakeholder engagement with MIL • Attended Oji hui and site visit to establish long-term positive relationship with the TARSG project team • Sourcing drone operator to take video footage for website and other communication platforms including meeting with web developer • Meetings with BOPRC staff and project team re project plan • Attended project team hui • Attended various engagement hui (WDC re Edgumbe wastewater, Phil Thomass re RLC Tarawera Wastewater Reticulation) 	
	Amount	Description	Amount	Description	Amount	Description
Total	\$721.15	Secretariat	\$10,525.26	Secretariat	\$5,353.05	Secretariat

Other support including responding to emails, organising hui, providing information and acting as a conduit between Forums.

Financial Overview (by financial year)

Committee	2022	2023	2024*	Total by Committee
RRF	\$14,938.64	\$16,885.28	\$1,244.70	\$33,068.62
TMoK	\$50,137.04	\$9,988.11	\$0	\$60,125.15
TARSG	\$721.15	\$10,525.26	\$5,353.05	\$16,599.46
Total by Year	\$65,796.83	\$37,398.65	\$6,597.75	\$109,793.23

*up to 30 January 2024

Future Work Plan

10. As already mentioned, the RRF document is due for review in 2025 and the TARSG river document is currently being drafted. Having secretariat support for the iwi members and particularly the Chairs of each Forum will help immensely in the development/review of each document.
11. The iwi members of the RRF held two water workshops in 2023 looking at how cultural indicators can be used to determine the cultural health and wellbeing of the river. It was agreed that capturing the cultural indicators for the entire river catchment and using those to determine the baseline health of the river (which can be measured over time) would assist the RRF in achieving its purpose. The purpose of the Forum is:

the protection and enhancement of the environmental, cultural and spiritual health and wellbeing of the Rangitaiki River and its resources for the benefit of present and future generations (Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 2024).

12. To enable and measure the integrated restoration of the mauri of the Tarawera catchment, the iwi members wish to undertake a project to:
 - a. capture the cultural indicators for the Tarawera River catchment,
 - b. create a baseline dataset for the current health and wellbeing of the river,
 - c. use the data captured over time to help determine whether or not the TARSG is achieving its purpose.
13. The purpose of the Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group is to:

Support, coordinate, and promote the integrated restoration of the mauri of the catchment (Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 2024).

14. As both Forums are also interested in undertaking Cultural Monitoring to measure the impact of any activity on the mauri of each awa, it is envisioned that the secretariat will help plan and implement this as well as provide funding to researchers and cultural monitors as required.
15. We request funding to hold an annual Symposium. This will enable iwi members to discuss what each group is doing in the water space. This is to share knowledge, discuss issues and learn from each other. This would include all iwi involved in co-governance of a freshwater body in the region.
16. The following table sets out the costings to support the Rangitaiki River Forum and the Tarawera Awa River Strategy Group Secretariat for the next three financial years (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027)

Item 8.1, Attachment 1

Tasks	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027
Secretariat Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting attendance, • submissions, • preparation of letters, • reporting • supporting new iwi members (induction) 	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
Symposium – 1–2-day symposium for co-governance iwi within the BOP. Costs include speakers (travel and accommodation), catering, venue, field trip, meeting organisation. While the amounts stated may not cover the full costs of an annual symposium, there is potential to apply for sponsorship	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Cultural Health Indices project to capture and measure river health/mauri for each river. Costs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming with iwi to finalise their level of participation • Appointment of project manager/researcher and maramataka expert • Researching, gathering information including undertaking interviews to gather cultural indicators, koha for participants/monitors, expenses such as petrol • Determine the iwi area of interest of each river to determine which cultural indicators are used where (there will be overlaps) • Draft a bespoke cultural monitoring plan for each awa by iwi and using the Maramataka • Appoint cultural monitors and implement plan • Gather data to create a baseline • Gather research to measure improvements/ degradation of 	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00

Tasks	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026	1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027
mauri against baseline data over time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm draft cultural river flows based on cultural indicators • Reporting to Forum and presenting at conferences etc • Provide collected indicators to respective iwi for future use in Cultural Impact Assessments, resource consent applications and submissions to Council 			
Website development and completion (ongoing digital support, training)	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00
Total	\$111,900.00	\$91,900.00	\$91,900.00

Conclusion

17. As the Chairs of the Rangitaiki River Forum and Tarawera Awa Restoration Strategy Group we wish to acknowledge the support received from the regional council to enable the Secretariat position to be piloted over the last 3 years. In our view the pilot has been a success, and we therefore request continued resourcing be provided via the Long-Term Plan. This will help ensure the future success of the two river entities in providing a voice for these important environments.
18. We request the right to speak to this submission at the LTP hearings