



Issue 21

Meeting 40

31 May 2018

Tutaekuri, Ahuriri Estuary, Ngaruroro, Karamū – the TANK project

TANK Group has just two more meetings before its handover to the Regional Planning Committee.

The Group was briefed about work initiated by the Joint Drinking Water Working Group to protect drinking water supplies. JDWWG is made up of representatives from the Regional Council, Napier City, Hastings District and Central Hawkes Bay councils and the District Health Board.

Te Kaha Hawaikirangi gave a summary of the values tāngata whenua associate with Tūtaekurī River and its tributaries.

We also spent time at this meeting going through the supporting paperwork that is now drawing together all of the TANK Group's work into draft Plan objectives, policies and rules.

Drinking water Source Protection

Annette Sweeney from Good Earth Matters gave an informative presentation on drinking water safety, including the range of measures that might be used to protect drinking water sources. JDWWG is being guided by findings from the enquiry into the Havelock North Drinking Water issue. This included six principles to be applied to managing drinking water supplies:

- A high standard of care must be embraced
- Protection of source water is of paramount importance
- Maintain multiple barriers against contamination
- Change precedes contamination
- Suppliers must own the safety of drinking water
- Apply a preventive risk management approach.

The TANK Group asked the Joint Drinking Water Working Group to make recommendations on how to ensure these principles are met in relation to possible provisions that would be included in the TANK Plan change.

Tūtaekurī Values

Te Kaha Hawaikirangi of Ngā Hapū o Tūtaekurī gave a presentation on the values associated with Tūtaekurī River.

Their mission statement is *to restore and enhance the mauri of the Tūtaekurī awa* through the seven values of Mauri, Wai māori, Whakapapa, Identity, Mahinga Kai/ taonga species and Kaitiakitanga.

The hapū includes Ngāti Pārau, Ngāti Hinepare, Ngāti Māhu and Ngai Tāwhao (Waiohiki, Moteo, Timikara and Wharerangi Marae). Collectively they have retained kaitiakitanga over Tūtaekurī Awa for more than 600 years, noting the degradation of Mauri over recent generations.

Ngā Hapū o Tūtaekurī’s projects include Te Wai Mauri Charatable Trust, Tūtaekurī Awa Management Plan, Whitebait enhancement, Waitangi estuary, wetland and habitat creation, 11000 plants, Cultural Health Index workshop, Cultural monitoring and impact assessments and the TANK Plan.

Lakes and Wetlands Update

The Lakes and Wetlands Working Group agreed on the objective to improve water quality in the shallow TANK lakes for their ecosystem values, and not for primary contact recreation, such as swimming.

LWWG endorsed earlier proposals presented to the TANK Group on managing sediment and nutrients, relating to the management of shallow lakes in the catchment. LWWG felt that a collective management approach, in particular, would be effective to ensure landowners identify water quality and ecosystem health issues relevant to their lake/s and develop mitigation measures that suit. They discussed whether shallow lakes should be part of regional ‘swimmability’ targets, but agreed that TANK’s large shallow lakes should not have to meet swimmability targets for bacteria. Why? This wouldn’t be consistent with ecological and cultural objectives for biodiversity, and the native bird populations that that lakes support.

The growth of plants in lakes compared to weed growth in streams has different impacts. Aquatic plant growth (macrophytes) in lakes help to keep the water clear and stop algal blooms. However macrophyte growth in rivers has a negative effect on oxygen levels. Wetlands have the positive effect of reducing nutrient concentrations between water going in and coming out - the innate ability to filter and convert this into plant growth (and higher ecological function/ value).

NGĀ HAPŪ O TŪTAEKURĪ



Draft TANK Plan

The second draft TANK Plan was presented and worked through in detail, noting points of agreement, disagreement and related comments.

TANK members suggested amendments and a number of issues were raised for further discussion.

Some of the matters resolved included:

- better references to indigenous species
- making sure that the water needs for primary production are properly referred-to
- recognising that new technology and other innovations will be developed over time
- provisions relating to new wetland creation
- targets for riparian planting.

An issue needing further development – and without agreement - includes provisions for damming and water storage and whether the benefits of water storage should be acknowledged.

The draft Plan will be refined and presented back to the next TANK Group meeting.

Timing

The following next steps have been agreed with TANK members and the Regional Planning Committee.

27 June TANK Group – meeting 41 Review the draft TANK Plan and Implementation Plan

26 July TANK Group – meeting 42 Final iteration of the draft TANK Plan and Implementation Plan
The TANK Group will identify areas where no agreement has been reached for the RPC to resolve further

August Formal handover to the Regional Planning Committee
The RPC will examine the TANK Plan, the process that was followed in developing it and the supporting documents at workshops and a field trip, referring back, if necessary, any questions and feedback to the TANK Group.

At their 12 September meeting the Regional Planning Committee will consider any final TANK Group input, staff recommendations on areas where the TANK Group was unable to reach consensus and make recommendations to the Council about the next phase of consultation and notification.



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TANK 
Safe, secure water for Heretaunga Plains