

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee – Terms of Reference

‘Whaitua’ is a traditional Te Reo Māori term for a designated area.

The Regional Plan utilises the word ‘whaitua’ to describe a catchment or sub-catchment (zone) managed as an integrated system.

1. Purpose and function

The purpose of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee is to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement in the development of a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP). A WIP is a non-statutory report to Council which will contain recommendations for specific plan provisions and work programmes for the integrated management of land and water resources within the whaitua boundary. The WIP may contain both regulatory and non-regulatory proposals.

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will operate in partnership with mana whenua and develop recommendations guided by the five principles created as part of the Regional Plan Review process:

- Ki uta ki tai – interconnectedness
- Wairuatanga – identity
- Kaitiakitanga – guardianship
- To matou whakapono – judgement based on knowledge
- Mahitahi – partnership (co-operative)

2. Status of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee is an advisory body established by Council. The Committee is not a subordinate decision-making body of Council and is not a committee under the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Specific responsibilities

1. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee is responsible for developing a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) that will outline regulatory and non-regulatory proposals for integrated land and water management within the whaitua boundary, including measures to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.
2. It is expected that the WIP will be developed within 24-36 months of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee’s establishment.

3. The WIP development will include:
 - a. An assessment of region wide objectives contained in the draft/proposed or operative regional plan, as they relate to the whaitua
 - b. Consideration of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan
 - c. Implementation of the Porirua Harbour Strategy and Action Plan where this is appropriate to include in the regional plan
 - d. Specific whaitua objectives for water quality and quantity outcomes
 - e. Discharge limits, including for sediment, nutrients and other contaminants if appropriate, including setting timeframes and priorities, and management methods, to achieve freshwater and coastal objectives, including objectives in the Porirua Harbour Strategy and Action Plan
 - f. Identification of mana whenua values and interests in the harbour and fresh water, and how these might be reflected in the regional plan
 - g. An assessment of, and recommendations to alter, existing water allocation limits, to achieve identified objectives for the whaitua
 - h. Programmes or activities that will support or contribute to the achievement of the established objectives for water quality and quantity outcomes, including such tools as environmental accords and post-settlement arrangements and,
 - i. Opportunities for the active integration of existing programmes and plans to achieve the objectives and targets for water quality and quantity outcomes.
4. In developing the WIP the following matters will also be considered:
 - a. Identification of the land and water issues, challenges, and opportunities for the whaitua
 - b. Identification of a vision of the future of land and water management for the whaitua
 - c. The management of stormwater and wastewater infrastructure
 - d. The management of sediment inputs into the harbour
 - e. Interactions between groundwater and surface water, fresh water, land use and coastal environments
5. In developing objectives, limits, management methods and activity programmes the members of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee must work within the ambit of the following:

- a. The Resource Management Act 1991
 - b. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010
 - c. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2014
 - d. The Regional Policy Statement 2010
 - e. The NES for Drinking Water Standards 2007
 - f. The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
 - g. Any other document referred to the Whaitua Committee by Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee, Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee or the General Manager, Environment Management.
 - h. Treaty of Waitangi settlements
6. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee shall recommend to Council that regulatory proposals within the WIP be referred to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee for incorporation into the Regional Plan through a plan change process.
 7. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee shall recommend to Council that the non-regulatory proposals within the WIP will be further developed within Greater Wellington and in conjunction with relevant external organisations.
 8. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee shall recommend new non-regulatory initiatives to be considered by the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee for inclusion in the Porirua Harbour Strategy and Action Plan

4. Council consideration of regulatory proposals in the WIP

If the Council is not prepared to accept any specific elements of the regulatory proposals within the WIP, those specific elements will be referred back to Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee for further consideration.

5. Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee membership and operation

5.1 Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee membership

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will be appointed by Council and will have the following membership:

1. One elected and one appointed member of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee representing the interest of Greater Wellington Regional Council and acting as a voice of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee. One or both of these members may also be a representative on the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee or otherwise ensure ongoing liaison with that committee
2. One member nominated from Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira representing the interests of mana whenua

3. One member nominated by each Territorial Authority operating within the whaitua boundary; Porirua City Council and Wellington City Council, who shall be an elected member of that territorial authority. These members may also be a representative on the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Joint Committee or otherwise ensure ongoing liaison with that committee
4. Up to 7 members from the community with a range of backgrounds and interests related to land and water management within the community. Council may approve additional members if it determines their necessity to ensure appropriate balance.

In determining the composition of the community members of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee, consideration shall be given to balancing the following land and water management interests and values:

- Indigenous biodiversity/environmental values
- Tangata whenua values
- Recreational values
- Wider economic development interests
- Urban ratepayer interests
- Urban Maori interests
- General community interests
- Incorporating existing structures/programmes and how they will be represented.
- Regional infrastructure interests

To be eligible to be considered for appointment to Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee, a community nominee must either live in, or be able to demonstrate a close connection with, the whaitua.

Each community member must also reflect the interests of a wider group within the community and have the skills, experience and knowledge to relay information between Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee and different sectors within the community.

5.2 Chairperson

The Chairperson position is to be determined by the full Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee when all members have been appointed. The Chairperson position must be filled by a member of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee.

5.3 Quorum

A majority of the membership of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee shall be present to form a quorum.

5.4 Alternate members

No alternates/proxies shall take the place of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee members.

5.5 Committee meetings and workshops

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will meet at least 4 times per annum (once a quarter) and with workshops and additional meetings as required.

Meetings will be advertised and will be open to the public.

5.6 Consensus

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will decide upon the recommendations proposed within their WIP by consensus.

6. Remuneration

Each council shall be responsible for remunerating its representative on Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee for the cost of that person's participation on the Committee.

All other members of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee will be eligible to receive standard mileage allowances or reimbursement of travel expenses as determined by Council and shall be eligible to receive the following honorarium:

- Appointed members (excluding the Chairperson) \$5,000 per annum each
- Chairperson \$8,000 per annum. This is only payable in the event that the Chairperson is a non-Councillor member of the Committee.

7. Duration of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee

Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee shall exist for the duration of the development and completion of a WIP (Whaitua Implementation Programme) document, and shall cease to exist when Council has made decisions on regulatory proposals within the WIP.