

Minutes

- Subject:** Huia Water Treatment Plant Community Liaison Group Meeting
- Date and time:** Tuesday, 17 February 2026, 6.30 – 8.30pm
- Location:** Waitākere Ranges Local Board Office Boardroom, 39 Glenmall Place, Glen Eden
- Attendees:** Paul Walbran (Independent Facilitator), Angus Cathcart (Resident), Allan Geddes (Waitākere Ranges Local Board), Belynda Groot (Titirangi Protection Group), Fiona Drummond (West Auckland Historical Society), Gerald Hinton (Resident), Jason Bourhill (Waima to Laingholm Pest Free), Jo & Paul Carter (Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association), Ken Turner (Waitākere Ward Councillor) *until 7.10pm*, Dr Mels Barton (Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers Association), Sandra Jones (Waitākere Ranges Protection Society), Sean Freeman (Tree Council), Axel Dumont (Watercare), Daniel Collis (Watercare), Justin Pooley (Watercare), Elizabeth Stewart (Watercare – Minutes)
- Apologies:** Anna Fomison (Waitākere Ranges Protection Society), Jacquie James (Resident), Janine Bickerton (Resident), Mark Harvey (Waima to Laingholm Pest Free), Megan Fitter (Titirangi Protection Group), Michelle Lucke (Waitākere Ranges Local Board), Ross Mitchell (Resident), Shane Ryder (Resident)

Karakia timatanga

Mauri oho Mauri tū Mauri ora ki a tātou Haumi e, Hui e Tāiki e!	Life force awoken Life force stand tall Life force all wellness, good health for all Join together, unite, the group is ready to progress for the purpose of coming together
--	---

Topic	Action(s)
<p>1. Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Opening, acknowledgment and reset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercare opened the meeting with a formal apology to Jo and Paul Carter for being asked to leave the previous meeting. It was noted this was not in the spirit of inclusivity Watercare strives for. The purpose of the meeting was confirmed as a reset of how the CLG works together, including expectations, membership, and Terms of Reference. 	

Topic	Action(s)
<p>Independent facilitator introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Walbran introduced himself, his background in environmental advocacy, Auckland Regional Council, and long-standing involvement with Watercare environmental advisory work. Paul confirmed he is independent and will end his involvement if the forum is not meaningful or he feels Watercare does not take it seriously. Paul noted for full transparency he is being paid for the facilitation role. 	
<p>2. Confirmation of previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercare tabled minutes for 26 November 2025 and updated minutes for 17 September 2025 (with vibration management additions) and these were accepted. The actions tracker was introduced. Watercare will keep completed actions visible (strike-through, not delete). Still outstanding from November was: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Western Water Supply Programme webpage update Clarification on where construction spoil from building the new Water Treatment Plant will go 2026 dates for Huia WTP CLG meetings MCA traffic light information relating to the Huia Raw Watermain CLG members raised an older unresolved issue: a shared document repository for CLG documents and future management plans (Dropbox or similar), noting the website is not up to date and not all documents belong in a public forum. 	<p>Watercare to review previous minutes for unresolved actions</p> <p>Watercare to confirm progress on a shared document system</p>
<p>3. Reset of the Community Liaison Group</p> <p>Purpose of the CLG and its role under consent conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercare reiterated the CLG's purpose as a consent-required forum to support transparency, accountability, problem-solving, two-way communication, and understanding local impacts. Community members challenged Terms of Reference (ToR) wording that suggests two-way communication occurs only during construction, noting the CLG must function meaningfully throughout planning and investigation phases. Discussion acknowledged that while the CLG is formally focused on the Huia WTP Replacement Project, at times the focus will be broader due to dependencies within the wider Western Water Supply Programme, including the raw watermains. Paul noted that should this be the case there is no representation on the CLG from other communities affected by the various projects, for example Huia, and if the intention of Watercare is to include these wider aspects in the CLG agenda then any representatives of any affected community should be invited. He suggested Watercare might like to think about how to work this. 	

Topic	Action(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members expressed frustration with previously feeling like the last to hear about decisions and a perception that information is sometimes withheld. • Paul noted that these issues are closely linked to the ToR, with agreement in principle that the direction the group wishes to take will be addressed through targeted amendments rather than a full rewrite, following agreement on core principles. <p>Communication, transparency and sharing of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group asked for clarity on when information can be shared publicly and whether minutes can be circulated before being formally confirmed. • Watercare advised that information should be treated as public unless explicitly marked confidential, however, draft minutes should not be shared externally until confirmed by the group. • Watercare discussed a tiered engagement approach consisting of CLG and elected members aligned communication, targeted communication, wider community communication and non-digital options including printed updates. <p>Expectations of behaviour and conduct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul summed it up in two words: Good faith, which was agreed as the core behavioural expectation for both Watercare and CLG members, supported by being honest and open in discussions. • Watercare acknowledged historical frustration and hurt associated with earlier processes. • Members emphasised that the CLG is a volunteer resource with deep institutional memory and strong community connections and should not be treated as a tick-box exercise. • It was noted that in some instances CLG members may have greater historical or contextual knowledge than the current project team. • Members stressed the importance of feeling genuinely heard, with feedback provided to inform better outcomes rather than to “score points.” • The CLG offered to act as a conduit for informal, targeted feedback from community groups between meetings. • Paul emphasised the importance of understanding the background to the consent order and why it was written the way it was. • It was noted that the consent order represents the minimum framework, with much of the critical detail sitting within the management plans and the outcomes of Environment Court caucusing, and that this context should remain front of mind as the project progresses. 	<p>Watercare to draft a revised Terms of Reference using track changes</p>

Topic	Action(s)
<p>How concerns, feedback and questions will be raised and responded to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercare confirmed Elizabeth as first point of contact; the Western Water Supply inbox routes through her. CLG members confirmed they would like updates as actions are completed, with information being captured on the action tracker. Paul suggested the approach can be iterated if a better method emerges. <p>Current CLG membership overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was reaffirmed that engagement through the CLG is a two-way process between Watercare and CLG members. Paul challenged the wording in the Terms of Reference stating that Watercare will consider feedback “where appropriate and when resourcing allows,” noting this presents as a weak commitment and should be reworded to better reflect good-faith engagement. It was acknowledged that there will be occasions where follow-up responses may be delayed or may not meet all community expectations. Paul noted that all CLG members must have a fair opportunity to contribute and express their views during meetings. Where a member cannot attend a meeting, the use of an alternate was discussed as a practical way to maintain continuity, with alternates acting as additional “ears and eyes” to report back, even if they do not hold the same depth of background knowledge. <p>Attendance and participation expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion focused on CLG membership, participation, and how the group operates. The principle of “better in the tent than out” was agreed, provided numbers remain manageable, with the view that where there is a genuine interest, people should be included. It was noted that the pre-consent CLG included a wider range of community groups than the current membership, and questions were raised about whether all relevant groups with an interest have been invited. Paul noted that inclusion should be encouraged, with the only proviso being that group size remains workable, and that groups with multiple representatives may need to manage their representation. The current Terms of Reference allow members to nominate agenda items; however, given the three-month gap between meetings, it was agreed that provision is needed for matters arising between meetings to be added to the next agenda, with sufficient lead-in time for Watercare to investigate and respond and a clear agenda cut-off date published. It was agreed the Terms of Reference should allow for additional meetings (online or in person) where urgent matters arise. 	<p>Watercare to review pre-consent CLG membership to check all groups have the opportunity to be represented</p> <p>Watercare to publish community cut-off dates for future agenda items to go to Paul for review</p>

Topic	Action(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul emphasised that the consent order sets the framework for the CLG’s work, with concerns and requests considered in reference to the consent conditions, and management plans providing the detailed implementation, to avoid re-litigating matters already resolved. Public reporting and media provisions were also discussed, with agreement that the CLG should be able to communicate publicly in good faith and that the wording in the Terms of Reference should better distinguish constructive community communication from media engagement that could undermine open discussion. 	
<p>4. Progress Update</p> <p>High-level project and programme update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercare provided a high-level update on the Western Water Supply Programme and associated projects. Geotechnical investigations for the new WTP and Reservoir 1 were completed in December 2025; however, a backlog at testing laboratories is delaying results. It was noted that each borehole has different testing specifications, and once results are received and assessed, further drilling may be required. Community members requested that geotechnical results be presented back to the CLG, noting local ground variability and the implications for large concrete structures and excavation, including the volume of material proposed to be disposed of at Parau. Watercare noted that while hydraulic options continue to be reviewed, the new WTP site itself is unlikely to change, as the existing plant must remain operational and cannot be shut down for extended period to enable construction of a new facility. The Huia aqueduct external survey has been completed and testing and reporting will follow. Anticipate a report to be ready in April; the internal survey cannot occur until the treatment plant can be shut down and will be undertaken at a later stage. Watercare confirmed that work has commenced on planning for the heritage management and restoration of the Nihotupu Filter Station, as required by the consent, with further information to be shared with the CLG in coming months. It was acknowledged this work will require engagement with a broader group, including heritage specialists, Auckland Council and Heritage New Zealand. An update was provided on the intersection upgrade works at Woodlands Park Road / Scenic Drive. Topographical surveys are planned, and Watercare committed to circulating the current concept design sketch. Discussion raised concerns about the health of a notable tree in the area, the need for arborist input and appropriate consents. 	<p>Watercare to provide geotechnical investigation results to the CLG once lab testing and reporting are completed</p> <p>Watercare to circulate the intersection upgrade concept sketch referenced in the meeting (DONE)</p>

Topic	Action(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions were also raised about the nearby carpark being used as a laydown area and site office; Watercare advised this is not locked in. • Watercare advised that construction of the May Road Booster Pump Station will commence next month as part of the wider programme. The station is designed to pump in both directions, improving network resilience and enabling short shutdowns of the existing Huia WTP for future tie-ins, inspections and surveys. Link to webpage: https://www.watercare.co.nz/home/projects-and-updates/projects-around-auckland/may-road-booster-pump-station. • Spoil and sludge disposal pathways were discussed. It was clarified that excavation spoil from the new WTP and Reservoirs will go to the Parau disposal site, while processed sludge disposal options are still being worked through. • Watercare noted ongoing work on preferred option selection for the Huia Raw Watermain. Earlier optimism about providing an update by Q1 2026 is unlikely to be met due to technical and hydraulic challenges, and Watercare is reviewing assumptions to ensure they are correct. A commitment was made to provide an update to the CLG and community as soon as timing changes are confirmed, with no surprises. • The public survey was discussed; Watercare has committed to recirculating the survey once the preferred option for the Huia Raw Watermain is available. 	<p>Watercare to send a link to the May Road Booster Pump Station webpage with the draft minutes (DONE)</p> <p>Watercare to provide an updated Huia raw watermain options timeline, including what has changed, why, and the next confirmed update date</p>
<p>5. Resource Consent conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercare outlined the key management plans required under the consent, including construction communications, heritage management, ecological management, traffic management, noise and vibration management, dust management, and kauri dieback (phytophthora) controls. • Key consent conditions previously raised by the CLG were reiterated, including hours of work, noise and vibration, dust management, and construction traffic. • It was agreed that CLG engagement should occur early in the management plan process, at the first draft stage, rather than at the end once plans are largely finalised. • Paul asked Watercare to anticipate when CLG engagement would be required for each management plan. Watercare agreed to provide a high-level programme showing when plans are expected to be developed and when CLG input will be sought, using a “year 1 / year 2 / year 3” view. • Discussion noted that many management plans are interlinked (for example erosion and sediment control and kauri dieback management) and should not be treated as standalone documents. • There was a clear preference to retain or re-engage consultants with institutional knowledge from the Environment Court and consenting process, to avoid losing context and repeating work. This approach is 	<p>Watercare to develop and present a high-level timeline/Gantt view: management plans, when they’ll be drafted, and when CLG input is required (year 1/2/3 view)</p>

Topic	Action(s)
already being applied, for example through the retention of Boffa Miskell as project ecologists.	
6. Site visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visits discussed; some members have attended previously. Watercare committed to reissue an invitation, gauge interest, and organise with the internal events support resource. 	Watercare to reissue invitation for Huia site visit(s), gauge interest, and confirm dates/logistics
7. Matters Arising <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
8. Next meeting dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting date not confirmed; acknowledged facilitator availability constraints and member scheduling challenges; Watercare to propose dates and circulate). 	Watercare to confirm next meeting date(s) using a multi-date poll that allows multiple selections

Karakia whakamutunga

Pou Hihiri Pou Rarama Pou o te Whakaaro Pou o te Tangata Pou o te Aroha Te Pou e here nei i ā tātou Mauri ora ki ā tātou Haumi ē! Hui ē! Tāiki ē!!!	May clarity be yours May understanding be your Through reflection Through personal endeavour Through respect The virtues which binds us as one May we be filled with wellbeing For one another Bind us together!
--	--