

Community Liaison Group

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2025

Attendees:

Name

Danielle Hamilton
Alistair Shanks
Angus Cathcart
Mels Barton
Ken Turner
Harish Patel
Sean Freeman
Belynda Groot
Megan Fitter
Elizabeth Stewart
Jeremy Elley-Brown
Justin Pooley
Jon Reed

Affiliation/Interest

Facilitator, Watercare
Secretary
Resident
Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers
Ward Councillor
Waima Superette
Tree Council
Titirangi Protection Group
Titirangi Protection Group
Watercare
Watercare
Watercare
Beca

Apologies:

Liz Manley
David Meurant
Jacquie James
Mark Harvey

Waitakere Ranges Local Board
Resident
Resident
Waima to Langholm Pest Free

Venue:

Lopdell House
Titirangi

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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1. Introductions

The members of the group, the Watercare team, and the facilitator, introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

These were received.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
3.	Minutes of Meeting on 28th August 2024 These were approved as a correct record as no changes were suggested.	
4.	Matters Arising from the Minutes The Group are still waiting for a portal/document repository drop box to be set up for easy access to the various documents associated with this project and ongoing activities. Watercare reported that this will be provided, but the timing is unclear as the digital team at Watercare has a backlog of work. The documents are sent out after the meetings so they will be available in the meantime.	
5.	Update on Replacement Huia WTP Geotechnical Investigations An update was given by Justin Pooley. Watercare is engaging the drilling contractor, who will start March/April 2025. The Phytophthora Risk Management Plan will be followed to manage risk relating to the Kauri trees. Auckland Transport traffic management requirements will be followed. A map was shown of the proposed boreholes. Existing and new geotechnical data will be used to produce an investigations report. The duration of the geotechnical investigations will be three to four weeks, during which time about two to three weeks of traffic signals are expected. Design work for the replacement WTP is expected in 2025-26, contract document preparation in 2027, with construction undertaken between 2028 and 2033. The copy of the approved Phytophthora Risk Management Plan for the geotechnical investigation is on the web site. There will be a new Phytophthora Risk Management Plan for construction works. The Group wants to be notified when the plan is finalised and put on the portal. The CLG suggested that traffic lights used for traffic control should be manually operated as stop/go during peak traffic periods to minimise traffic backup. Auckland Transport will be the authority who approves the Contractor's traffic management plans and the contractor will be asked to minimise traffic disruption, where practical.	Watercare
6.	Raw Water Pipeline Options A presentation was given by Justin Pooley and Jon Reed.	

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A slide showed the pipelines that need replacement, upgrading or repairing, or were at risk due to slips. These included the Upper Nihotupu pipeline, Smith's Tunnel, the Huia pipeline at the 40 acre slip, the Lower Nihotupu Pump Station and part of the aqueduct. The new WTP will be at a higher elevation than the existing WTP.

Matters to be considered for option evaluation included the need to upgrade the ageing assets, to enable the new Huia WTP to be commissioned (while operating the existing Huia WTP), and to contribute to a resilient, reliable, safe and efficient water supply. Options are being considered and are being refined and improved as they are developed.

Watercare has developed criteria from the Australian and UK water industries to help guide the options assessments. Matters to be considered will include cultural concerns, heritage and archaeology, social impacts, environmental, landscape, sustainability, construction, operation, statutory planning and engineering.

The old pipelines are to be upgraded, the water capacity is to be increased, and the system reliability is to be improved. The new WTP is about 20m higher than the existing WTP. The existing aqueduct needs to be taken out of service for checking and rehabilitation.

Options being Considered

They included:

Option 1

This included an upgrade the Lower Nihotupu pump station, a new pump station at the new WTP, and a tunnel from Mackie's Rest to the new Huia pump station at the new WTP. The tunnel would be pipe jacked and about 2m diameter. As the tunnel would be well into the hillside there would be no pipe bridges over gullies. About three 10m diameter shafts may be required for its construction.

Option 2

This is similar to Option 1, except the new Lower Nihotupu pump station would operate at a higher pressure, so no pump station would be required at the new WTP. The Lower Nihotupu existing rising main for about 500m would need replacing for the higher pressure and the new tunnel from Mackie's Rest designed for a higher pressure. Smiths tunnel would also need upgrading.

Option 3

This is a new pipeline along Huia Road. This option will not be taken forward due to the high risk of geotechnical failure, major traffic disruption, and its construction length.

Option 4A

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This included an upgrade the Lower Nihotupu pump station. A new pipeline would be built from the combined Huia main to the proposed Huia WTP, with a boost pump station adjacent to the Lower Nihotupu pump station, called the Depot Pump Station. The existing aqueduct would be upgraded and a new pump station constructed for the aqueduct flow at the existing WTP. The new pipe construction in the road would be 1m diameter. This option avoids the 40 acre slip by building around the western edge of Lower Nihotupu..

Option 4B

This option requires an upgrade to the Lower Nihotupu pump station, a new pipeline from Mackie's Rest to the proposed Huia WTP along the road, together with a boost pump station (expected to be between Mackie's Rest and the road). The new pipe construction in the road would be 1m diameter.

Similar to Option 4A, the aqueduct and a new pump station for the aqueduct flow would be required at the existing WTP. This option does not avoid the 40 acre slip area.

Option 5A

This option requires an upgrade to the Lower Nihotupu pump station with a new pipeline to the proposed Huia WTP and an upgrade to the aqueduct and a new pump station for the aqueduct flow at the existing WTP. The pipe construction in the road would be 1m diameter.

Option 5B

This option requires an upgrade to the Lower Nihotupu pump station with a new tunnel to the new WTP, and an upgrade to the aqueduct and a new pump station for the aqueduct flow at the existing WTP. The tunnel would be 1.5m diameter.

All the options are subject to geotechnical investigations.

Options 4A, 4B and 5A would have the additional benefit of the pipeline in the road being able to supply both the existing and proposed Huia WTPs.

Next Steps

The options are still developing as better information becomes available, such as from the structural assessment of the existing aqueduct, and the geotechnical Investigations to better understand the risks for each option.

Effects will primarily be a combination of ecological, landscape, social and transport issues. Engagement with the public will be undertaken about these issues.

Concern was raised about road and track closures for the various options, and about truck movements on the roads. It was noted that there is limited road access to the communities west

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of Titirangi. It was considered that there would be social implications if Exhibition Drive was closed. The community want the least impact from the works. It was considered that the options need more discussion with the community.

Resource consents will be required for the geotechnical investigations. After a preferred option is identified, the necessary resource consents will be sought. This might include additional geotechnical investigations to inform the detailed design.

Question was raised about notified consents. Watercare will be advised by Council on this requirement and will not proactively notify the consent for the geotechnical works as these are applicable for all options. This is yet to be decided for the raw water project construction.

Question was raised about fast track legislation and this is not something Watercare intends to pursue for this project.

An indicative programme is 2025-26 for concept design followed by an application for the required resource consents, 2026-27 for detailed design, and 2028 to 33 for construction and commissioning. Stakeholder engagement is planned throughout.

Proposed actions in 2025-26

- Undertake WTP geotechnical investigations, reporting and design work.
- Lodge Resource Consent in February 2025 for geotechnical investigations for raw water options.
- Have public drop-in sessions for raw water consultation.
- Undertake geotechnical investigations for North Harbour 2 connection (WTP to Titirangi reservoir).
- The concept design on preferred raw water option will start.

7. Community Engagement for the Raw Water Options

A presentation was given and discussion lead by Jeremy Elley-Brown.

The “Watercare Promise” to Customers

- To involve them in decisions about how they deliver water and wastewater services.
- To use the feedback to improve customer services.
- To help customers to value water as a taonga and to use it wisely.

Proposed Community Engagement

1) March - April:

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- Communications / newsletter to local community.
- Community drop in sessions to view proposed options and ask questions of the project team.
- Public display of options in Titirangi Library.
- Online survey to consult on key priorities and concerns.

2) Mid-Late 2025:

- Community events to provide feedback on decision based on consultation and geotechnical investigations.
- Communications / newsletter to local community.
- On-going communication with local community on the next steps.

3) 2026-27:

- Ask for feedback from community on how to deliver the project to lessen impacts.
- Explore opportunities for environmental and sustainability initiatives and potential collaboration.
- Follow up communications and engagement as decisions are made.

Venues for hall meetings were suggested, such as Langholm Hall and at Waima School. Records of meetings should be made and put online. Communications suggestions are to be sent to Danielle. People further out, for example residents at Cornwallis, should also be contacted as they use Huia Road. Auckland Transport should be involved. Watercare will invite them but they may not attend as the actual project works are very far off.

There was discussion on the possibility of temporary removal of speed bumps during construction to facilitate truck movements.

Concern was raised that the community could become polarised between social and green issues compared to transport impacts and the need to get to work.

The group encouraged Watercare to be proactive with the community and considered that public meetings would be more effective than drop-in sessions

8. Other Matters

It was requested that the minutes be distributed promptly.

Updated graphics will be available, ready for the proposed public engagement in March/April 2025, provided sufficient technical inputs and information material has been produced.

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
9.	Next Meeting	
	The next meeting will be in May after a round of engagement is undertaken.	