

LAKES & WATERWAYS ACTION GROUP

**5.15 pm THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 2022
AT THE ACAPULCO MOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM
19 RIFLE RANGE RD
LWAG INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR MONTHLY MEETING:**

**“TDC 3 WATERS UPDATE” – Mike Cordell,
Asset Manager, Wastewater
LWAG MONTHLY MEETING**

1. APOLOGIES
2. CONFIRMATION OF LWAG AGM MINUTES: September 15th 2022
3. GENERAL BUSINESS: i) Payments ii) Speaker programme iii) Media/Communications iv) Media/Communication v) LWAG archival project & website: www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz
4. ‘TDC 3 WATERS UPDATE’ – Mike Cordell
5. STATUTORY PROCESSES – TDC/WRC local elections – candidate results, Contact Energy oral sub
6. FARMING ISSUES – discussion
7. SCIENCE UPDATE – see November meeting below
8. NEXT MEETING: November 17 – “Improving the science & management of water & environmental issues through analyses of knowledge, narratives, & resonances” – Pierre Glynn, US environmental scientist & Royal Soc. of NZ Fellowship holder. TBC

LAKES & WATERWAYS ACTIN FROUP TRUST MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

PRESENT

Paul White
Larry Hadley
Laurie Burdett
Natalie Haines

Itty Nikolao
Judith McGrath
Deb Burton
Gavin Williamson

IN ATTENDANCE

Jane Penton

1. APOLOGIES

John Williamson
Rob Van Duivenboden
Gifford McFadden

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Paul welcomed everyone and reported on the last presentation to LWAG in August where TDC, Aiden Smith outlined what TDC was doing in the climate action area. Since then, TDC has signed off on actions, including emission reduction targets, at their August council meeting. LWAG to receive annual updates from Aiden.

RESOLVED

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE LAKSE AND WATERWAYS MEETING OF AUGUST 18 2022, BE CONFIRMED
Paul/Deb

Jane reported that she had received information from Nick Carroll on the under-construction Waiora House specs including sustainability credentials (*attached September 15 Agenda*)

6. STATUTORY PROCESSES

Paul tabled responses to LWAG questions to WRC and TDC candidates. Discussion.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

i) Payments

RESOLVED

THAT JANE PENTON BE PAID \$625 FOR ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER, THAT THE ACAPULCO MOTEL BE PAID \$120 FOR VENUE HIRE AND \$40 PETTY CASH BE MADE AVAILABLE.

Paul/Nat

ii) Speaker Programme

TDC 3 Water update October 20th including an outline of changes from government's Water Services Bill impact on district services. November 17, LWAG to have a presentation from visiting water scientist Pierre Glynn.

4. TRUSTEE POSITION NOMINATION

Paul thanked outgoing trustee Judith McGrath for her long involvement with LWAG. He also acknowledged her husband Jim's participation. Jane presented a gift and card from LWAG and she also thanked Judith for her commitment and her attendance of so many meetings over the years. Judith summarized her interests and advocacy including from their farming perspective. She spoke of interaction with Contact over reinjection issues on their land where her grandson, who is a geothermal engineer, was helpful. Her family are currently increasing their land ownership in the Taupō catchment.

Discussion on LWAG Trustees: Jane said that Rob Van Duivenboden was nominated and confirmed at the July AGM. Jane is currently updating the information relating to this as part of our Charity annual report. As per our

Trust Deed, LWAG advertised Trustee nominations in our September press notice.

Paul nominated Deb Burton as LWAG Trustee.

RESOLVED

THAT DEB BURTON BE ACCEPTED AS LWAG TRUSTEE

Paul/Laurie

6. STATUTORY PROCESSES CONT...

Discussion: Laurie – heard that 3 Waters upgrades would cost TDC \$20 M. Paul – concerned with government’s proposed governance structure. Laurie – huge variation in standards between councils. When she was a WRC councilor – some never complied. Direct discharges to rivers etc. Election issue. Paul – delivery too complex. Laurie – Brian Hannah, mayor at Te Kuiti increased rates by 30% to fix WW treatment. But for small communities it is beyond their ability to pay. Paul – e.g., drinking water standards - government should pay councils directly to fix water. Laurie – Havelock incident GNS presentation some yrs ago – clear that system needs straightening up. Paul – agrees rates/staffing levels an issue.

5. ‘WRC LAKE TAUPŌ & UPPER WAIKATO ZONE UPDATE’

Itty introduced herself and said she had a background in policy and planning. She has also worked in the iwi co-management space. Her PhD is in Social Geography. Her position as WRC Upper Waikato & Taupō Zone manager is an opportunity to also reconnect with Taupo as she enjoyed visits here as a child.

Overarching documents include the Taupō Zone Plan – Healthy Catchment Healthy People, Upper Waikato Zone Plan, and Waikato & Waipa River Restoration Strategy. Upper Waikato - full review 2025, potential lite review 2022/23. Lake Taupō Zone – full review due to commence 2023.

Overview: Resourcing Budgets, work programmes/funding splits and, River & Catchment Management Activities – Regional Outputs 2021/22.

Upper Waikato Zone: Erosion issues illustrated including: Tiverton Downs tunnel gully site. Upper Waikato priorities include: Whirinaki Project, Lower Pokaiwhenua Project, maintenance of existing work, and localised response to river management issues. Fencing/planting restoration – photos of projects including Frisken Farms, Mark Bowie, McKenzie Farms, Lower Pokaiwhenua Project etc.

Lake Taupō Zone Priorities: Includes special projects e.g. Waituhi Kuratau Lagoon/Wiotaka River.

Maintenance of retired existing soil conservation compartments. WRC has entered into landowner agreements re; fence maintenance. River management and maintenance of flood protection assets.

New works total: 3,180 plants, 2,090 m new fencing, 29 ha retired land.

New fencing at Moerangi station – extension of wetland. Held planting day with Tongariro school children. Whakarawa station, Ruahine Stream – over a km of new fencing. Funded by MPI (Clean Streams), WCEET, WRC and Landowner - 4 year project. Waituhi Kuratau Lagoon Restoration - 11.7 ha retired, 2,500 plants at a 12 ha lagoon. Generous funding from WCEET. Motere Wetland/Stream Planting - Tihoi Venture School Boys planting, 4 year project commenced this month. WCEET funding the plants. Landowner doing ground prep and releasing. WRC co-ordinating.

Tokaanu Stream - Care Group – removing blockages, identifying issues. Genesis gave 5K. WRC met with Genesis, local hapu and community. Feedback given re; veg removal - willows and targeted pest species. Work in partnership with Care Group.

River management. Recent news is that ERC have now employed via a contract consultancy arrangement

someone with engineering expertise to help manage the Taupō flood protection assets. Russell Powel – consultant –with 28 yrs experience will provide support for Taupō team. Itty reported that he came down this week and made an overview of sites including Tauranga-Taupō & Tongariro Rivers. It has been quite a journey to replace WRC's local river management officer. Site inspection and technical advice to teams re; project requirements needed. Also able to oversee delivery/liaise with contractors.

Taupō Zone – River Management Activities: Kuratau River erosion Protection works. Hinemaiaia River management. (Before/after pics). Tauranga-Taupō – Kiko spillway maintenance work – gravel extraction (pics) Key stakeholders happy for works to continue. Decided to look at vegetation removal e.g. ARCO contractors hard with covid to have consistent management. Tauranga-Taupō forest wind throw event 2019 – removal of trees completed.

TDC Lake Shore Erosion protection: WRC work with TDC on foreshore works including 'living walls'/geotextile/grasses on lakeshore. Kuratau beach nourishment and living wall now in place (in preference to hard rock revetments). Singers Ecological have been engaged to advise on willow control methods to ensure protection of the water quality of Lake Kuratau.

Biosecurity: Plant Pest work – Nicky Hughes is supporting communities and coordinating this work including: Tauhara Maunga – wilding pine control (funded by MPI, WCEET, DoC Conservation fund and WRC). Mine Bay – wilding pine control. Waihaha Catchment Western Bays – Douglas Fir control (MPI/DoC/Taumata Plantation funding)

Maintenance Possum Control 2021/22. (Zones) Over 500,000 ha in priority possum control areas and 5,000 landowners. Collaborate with DOC, LINZ, local Councils, MPI, OSPRI, organisations and Iwi Control in North Taupō (#46) & West Taupō (# 48) will be completed in 2022/23.

Wallaby – containment 'ring fence' the core area. (BOP westward toward Tokoroa & Sth to Reporoa) Find breeding populations outside the containment area and eliminate. Surveillance – look for them across the landscape. Itty said they caught 2,000 in two nights Control – determine effective control for the situation. Monitoring – keep checking to confirm.

Discussion: Zone plans will be notified for review 2022. Full review – 2023. Gavin - L T Foreshore budget spent? Itty – yes on track re; completed. Laurie – Hatepe? Itty – Hinemaiaia – needs some work re; willow. Russell advised it as a priority site. Laurie – remembers sand replacement on beach. Natalie – Russell looking at foreshore Hinemaiaia? Itty – holistic approach. Planning meeting for staff this week – report from Russell due. Project plan to come. Natalie – would be good to see the foreshore plan for this year. A few things up in the air. Consent work around hard structures. Kinloch? Itty - Greg waiting on Russel. Also, community input.

Paul – 'light review' of current plan? Itty – yes then a consultant employed re; full review. Jane – Zone Plan – some of the aspects of Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki to be included? Itty – Yes, implementation of Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki will affect review. Hearings – Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki pending. Gavin – surprised only 6 submissions on this direction-heading document. Mercury endorsed it but understand the challenges re; implementation. How to interpret outcomes. Itty – yes, low submission numbers re; feedback. Jane - Tiriti settlement a long process. Good to see outcomes. Itty – yes. Taupo, Upper Waikato Zone includes largest iwi portfolio. New nuance – new operational teams. Iwi – employment opportunities. Wider community too. Sometimes falls on small number of people.

Paul – LWAG to give feedback re; light review.

6. STATUTORY PROCESSES CONT...

Further discussion re; Candidate's responses. Laurie – heard from Simone Stevenson but concerned that nothing

from the other WRC candidate, Mich'ael Downard and, no online presence or campaign information available to date.

Jane reported that the DP Plan Changes have been signed off and will be notified end of October (*See attached*)

Meeting ended 6.20 pm

STATUTORY PROCESS UPDATE, COMMUNICATION

September/October 2022 (*Recent updates highlighted*)

TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL:

DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW 2019 - 2022 – TDC's Hilary Samuel is heading up this major piece of policy work specific sections to be tidied up. Additional work to be undertaken when Govt policy further progressed. Rural & Residential chapters to be reviewed. SNA's awaiting NPS on Significant Natural Areas. Objectives: to improve areas of plan which are causing excess process and therefore costs for marginal benefit. To allow district to develop in an integrated and sustainable way, incorporate the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Ensure adequate space and choice for different land uses. LWAG received response to pre-consultation feedback on Draft District Plan Changes. At their Aug 30 meeting, TDC adopted PC 38 – Strategic Directions, PC 39 Residential Coverage (increase from 30-30%), PC 40 – Town Centre (including height increase to 4-6 storeys in some parts of the town centre), and PC 41 – removal of mapped fault lines (now corrected via LiDar). Due to local body elections these will be notified at the end of October with a 2 month submission period. Proposed Plan Changes, Submissions, responses etc available here:

<https://www.taupodc.govt.nz/council/consultation/district-plan-changes-2022>

TDC CLIMATE CHANGE – ADOPTION OF EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS & DIRECTIVE – TDC also signed off at Aug 30 meeting The emissions reductions targets are based on a path to meeting the national target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Reducing solid waste, improving energy efficiency, and reducing fuels for vehicles and gardening equipment are areas where the council has the greatest opportunities to reduce emissions. TDC Media release:

<https://www.taupodc.govt.nz/council/news?item=id:2j9n4bu5v1cxbyyqa0tf>

(Ref: LWAG minutes attached 'Climate Change, what the Council is Doing' – Aiden Smith, Snr. Advisor Climate Change) **N.B. Council staff will be attending the Taupo Climate Action Group Meeting 21st October, 1 pm**

upstairs at the Taupo Library - all welcome. Call Jane Penton on 07 378 2043 for more information

TOWN CENTRE TAUPŌ UPGRADE – Tongariro St work progressing to transform the street into a two-lane, slower speed zone with extra carparks, pedestrian islands and a cycle lane plus outdoor dining spaces.

<https://www.taupodc.govt.nz/council/projects/taupo-town-centre-transformation/2project-phases>

TDC - # LOVE TAUPŌ 'Te Ihirangi – A Destination Management Plan for the Taupo Destination' – strategic plan consultation identifying a pathway for sustainable growth and resilience for the benefit of the local communities and visitors. Jane attended meeting focusing on consultation on environmental issues/opportunities. For more information contact: rowan@roamconsulting.co.nz

NUKUHAU PRIVE PLAN CHANGE – approved March 2022. Hearings Panel recommended council approve the plan change, with some amendments including heightening the council's discretion when granting a resource consent for the subdivision; ensuring the management of traffic impacts of the subdivision; the inclusion of a cultural values assessment for the site; the introduction of minimum and maximum lot sizes; additional stormwater management; and provisions around crime prevention and ecology. In line with the recommendations, TDC will also be looking to bring forward their investigation into the control gates bridge to next year as part of the Annual Plan process. Alongside this, no development within the plan change area can progress until an appropriate solution to dealing with increased wastewater is addressed. Of note are the updated maps illustrating decision to allow for existing gullies to remain intact for stormwater/recreational/biodiversity uses/values as per LWAG advocacy. For more information on the Hearings Panel findings and the Plan Change, please head to taupo.govt.nz/nukuhauplanchange. **Appeal option open until early April.**

LOCHVIEWS ESTATE LTD SUBDIVISION APPLICATION (STAGE 1) – Lodged July 2021 for 111

residential lots above Acacia Bay. Proposal includes: water to be reticulated, but independent Wastewater TP and disposal system as wastewater cannot be accommodated by TDC. LWAG correspondence incl. response from TDC head planner Heather Williams (*abridged*): Louise Wood is processing consent currently on hold awaiting the applicant to respond to some questions. The land was rezoned (as residential) a few years ago so there is a lot to consider about where the effects lie and what notification may be involved. LWAG interest passed onto Louise to keep updated once the information in. Stage 2 has also now also been lodged.

NORTH SIDE OF TAUPŌ: NUKAHAU PLAN CHANGE, RYMAN DEVELOPMENT, LOCHVIEWS – INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS CURRENTLY BEING ASSESSED BY TDC **Internal interim plan being developed by TDC to be completed soon.**

TURANGI WWTP – Consent Renewal lodged November 2017. LWAG commented re; options. Processing by WRC deferred pending steering group progression. Steering group including John Williamson, TDC staff, Tuwharetoa MTB and local iwi External project manager contracted re; overseeing steering group process. TDC are looking at land disposal options and are likely to some direction from Council on this in the new year. Currently reviewing specific potential sites for land disposal. A carbon dosing system now installed. TDC are seeing good results with reduction in the amount of nitrogen discharged after commissioning of the carbon dosing system. Interim consent may be required due to delay in disposal site decision - October 2022 plan required.

No update

MANGAKINO – TDC is including upgrade of WWTP for N removal in new consent application and the planned upgrade will allow for future growth. Draft consent conditions from WRC received, awaiting final feedback from Iwi before the consent is finalized. **No update**

ACACIA BAY – Water supply reticulation to town in LTP LWAG asked for wastewater to be considered in submission. No intention to connect Acacia Bay to Taupo in the short term, the trigger for this would likely be development in Acacia Bay area. No projects planned for Acacia Bay. Capacity over the Control Gate Bridge remains a constraint. **No update**

RAKANUI RD - TDC/WRC agreed to reduce N loading rates at Rakanui Road for the replacement consent. This will require expansion of irrigation area at View Road. New consent also likely to include Phosphorous limits. Finalizing consent conditions with WRC. Increasing tree planting at the Rakanui Road ETA boundary and other areas to reduce spray drift risk. Some planting completed last year, more to coming this year and in following years.

VIEW ROAD: Expanding View Rd site by 60/70 ha irrigation infrastructure. Site clearing underway.

KINLOCH WWTP Operating very well, community open day being planned. Expect significant reduction in nitrogen discharge.

TDC DRINKING WATER UPGRADES:

UV upgrades underway at River Road and Whakamaru.

CONTACT ENERGY Introduction to GeoFuture Contact Energy are proposing to: Close Wairākei A&B Power Stations no later than 31 June 2031. Stop all discharges of separated geothermal water into the Waikato River and associated streams no later than 31 June 2026. Gain consent to build a larger development at Te Mihi with an option for a small development at Wairākei. Contact are not seeking a material increase in our geothermal fluid take. **Hearings – 20 October (LWAG oral submission)**

COMPOSTABLE WASTE MINIMISATION INITIATIVE: MYNOKE support circular economy processes for Taupō businesses and institutions. (N.B. MYNOKE are currently contracted take TDC wastewater sludge to turn into vermicast.) For more info se: <https://sustainable.org.nz/people/> and <https://www.mynoke.co.nz/>

TE KAUPAPA KAITIAKI ~ TAUPŌ CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN: Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa, a co-governance body with membership from Te Kotahitanga o Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council, is developing a management plan (Te Kaupapa Kaitaki) for the Taupō Catchment that seeks to protect, restore and enhance its environmental, cultural and spiritual health for current and future generations. *The vision for the Taupō Catchment as set out in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Act 2018 is ‘for a healthy Taupō Catchment that is capable of sustaining the whole community and that is managed in a manner that reflects Ngāti Tūwharetoa tikanga’.* More about the Plan: <https://www.tekaupapakaitiaki.co.nz/te-kaupapa-kaitiaki/> For Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa agendas: [Te Kōpu ā Kānapanapa Co-Governance Committee agendas and minutes | Waikato Regional Council](#)

Film: Te Kopu a Kanapanapa / Te Piringa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IY5MUieaRNg>

Next Steps: Jane gave LWAG oral submission to draft document at October 4th hearing. Approval of Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki March – May 2023

ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO:

WRC's FRESHWATER POLICY REVIEW – Over the next two years, changes to be made to Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Waikato Regional Plan. To do this, they are seeking input from tangata whenua, farmers, industry, rural professionals and the general public to identify and understand their issues, values and aspirations for fresh water, and to determine how we'll measure our progress. The views and feedback will help to inform changes to the RPS and the development of a new regional plan, which we anticipate will be notified for public submission in 2024 and operative by 2026.

Further information: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/freshwater-policy-review

PC1 HEALTHY RIVERS/WAI ORA: Waikato Regional Council has notified the decisions version of its groundbreaking Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora plan change. The decisions documents are available on Waikato Regional Council's website www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers. In August 2021, the Government released the findings of a [review of Overseer](#). The review identified shortcomings in Overseer's modelling approach. The Court-assisted appeal process is continuing. However, the Courts are also looking at alternatives to Overseer (e.g. Risk Assessment Tools). New government regulations e.g. Freshwater NES requirements for Farm Plans plus Stock Exclusion Rules are impacting on the process.

LAKE TAUPŌ CATCHMENT COMMITTEE: LWAG received an invitation to participate in a reformed Lake Taupō and Upper Waikato Zone Committee process as a community representative. **Jane attended 1st June meeting.** Zone work programmes reports were presented by Deb Nickle & staff and issues discussed.

LAKE TAUPŌ PROTECTION PROJECT JOINT COMMITTEE: Jane attended 23rd August meeting online. Agenda included Monitoring report (Jon Palmer) 23 properties compliant with NP and other consent requirements. Budget for LTP Trust approved to June 30, 2023. Recording & Agendas available here:

<https://waikatoregion.govt.nz/community/whats-happening/council-meetings/lake-taupo/> & for more information ref; Latest News section of LWAG website www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz

LAKE TAUPŌ PROTECTION TRUST Lake Taupō Protection Trust - Taupō District Council and Waikato Regional Council have approved funding to continue the Lake Taupō Protection Trust to further protect the water quality of Lake Taupō. This has been approved by MfE. LTP Trust AGM 10.30 am Monday 29th August.

For agenda/minutes see: <https://www.protectinglaketaupo.nz/the-trust/key-documents/> (Also, See LWAG website 'latest news' section) www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz)

WRC CHAPTER 3.10 REVIEW: WRC has separated the review of Variation 5 (now called Chapter 3.10) into 2 stages - stage 1 relates to the Overseer version issue and stage 2 will target all other matters. Regional Council currently investigating implications of the NPS and NES Freshwater on the Waikato Regional Plan. Through that process, parts of the plan that need to be changed will be identified – those changes are likely to include further changes to the Taupo Chapter. The requirement is to notify changes no later than 2024. That means working towards changes will occur in next couple of years.

WRC PLAN CHANGE 2: TAUPŌ OVERSEER VERSION: The plan change was made operative on Monday 12 October 2020. More information on the plan change including the operative plan change document is now on the plan change website <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/council/policy-and-plans/rules-and-regulation/taupo-overseer/>

N.B. Plantain now in OverseerFM as a pasture type on pastoral and cut and carry blocks

WRC CLIMATE CHANGE ROADMAP EMISSIONS MAN. & REDUCTION PLAN: Council approved its Climate Action Roadmap to guide internal activities, budget planning and opportunities to work with iwi partners and key stakeholders for a climate-resilient Waikato. The roadmap provides nine evidence-based pathways the council will take to respond to the impact of council actions on the climate and the implications of a changing climate on council activities including a proposal to help accelerate the uptake of low emission vehicles in the Waikato region. <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/assets/WRC/WRC-2019/Climate-Roadmap.pdf>

CONTACT ENERGY: GEOFUTURES includes proposal to re-consent, re-configure and modernise its existing operations on the Wairākei Geothermal Field, including the maintenance of supply of geothermal water

to local businesses that use the supplied geothermal water as part of their activities (known as ‘cascade users’). The overall proposal is referred to as "GeoFuture". For a full list of the activities applied for and to view the application documents and a customised copy of the submission form please visit

<http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/GeoFuture>. **Hearings 18 October**

LAKE TAUPŌ PROTECTION PROJECT ‘Te wai, te iwi Protecting Lake Taupō’ – publication

<http://www.protectinglaketaupo.nz/> (scroll down to video and click play) **n.b. Hard copies available from Jane.**

WRC LAKE TAUPŌ’S WATER QUALITY DATA

“WATER QUALITY OF LAKE TAUPŌ & ITS CATCHMENT 1973-2020” – comprehensive report being developed by Bill Vant & John Hadfield – available soon *See August agenda:*

<https://www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz/monthly-reports-2022/julyaugust-2022-including-august-18th-agenda> Follow link. Deep buoy site info here: <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/natural-resources/water/lakes/lake-taupo/lake-taupos-water-quality/>

WRC’s monitoring of Lake Taupō’s open water quality shows the lake continues to be of high quality, clear and low in nutrients. However, increasing nitrate levels in the bottom waters of the lake could lead to increases in algae, which can reduce clarity. WRC measures Secchi depth at their open water sampling site to monitor Lake Taupō’s water clarity over time. They also collect water samples in the top 10 metres of the lake at this site to measure chlorophyll *a*, total phosphorus and total nitrogen. The online table gives their average chlorophyll *a* values for the period 1994 to 2020.

NIWA buoy WRC have contracted Dr Piet Verburg from NIWA to undertake a study using the monitoring buoy data from Lake Taupo. This study will focus on evaporation from the lake, and how this changes over the time the buoy has been in place.

Water quality for human contact recreation: Waikato Regional Council now measures bacteria levels (*E. coli*) in the water at five sites around the edge of Lake Taupō annually. *E. coli* bacteria is a useful indicator of the health risk for human contact recreation activities, such as swimming or water skiing.

Algal bloom reporting: scroll down to Lake Taupo on this WRC site:

<https://waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/natural-resources/water/rivers/waikato-river/algal-blooms/>

GOVERNMENT/He Waka Eke Noa - farmers and growers gave feedback about policy options.

Background: The Government has legislation in place to price agriculture greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 through the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) if a credible alternative is not agreed upon.

HE WAKA NOA The He Waka Eke Noa partnership has recommended the introduction of a farm-level levy system from 2025. **The Government has released for consultation a proposal to reduce agricultural emissions, putting New Zealand on track to meet our 2030 methane reduction target:**

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pragmatic-proposal-reduce-agricultural-emissions-and-enhance-exports-and-economy>

OVERSEER REVIEW REPORT The Government will work to support the development of a next generation Overseer so that it can fully investigate the opportunities and plan an appropriate path for redevelopment. (*See more below*) <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/government-response-to-the-findings-of-the-overseer-peer-review-report-final-.pdf>

MFE RMA – to be replaced by 3 acts: Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA), focused on land use and environmental regulation; the Strategic Planning Act (SPA) pulling together laws around development; and the Climate Change Adaptation Act (CAA) focused on managed retreat and its funding. Minister Parker: “Local Govt. will continue to be the key institution, shaping and implementing the new system.”

Budget 2022 provided \$179 million over four years for implementation of resource management reform. This will ensure funding to help complete the National Planning Framework, the first Regional Spatial Strategies and NBA plans, and the National Māori entity. **The Government intends to introduce the Natural and Built Environments Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill to Parliament in October 2022.**

The third Bill, the Climate Adaptation Bill, is expected to follow in 2023.**UPDATES ON THIS AND OTHER GOVT. POLICY CHANGES HERE:**

<https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/key-initiatives/resource-management-system-reform/>

EDS has helpful links on its webpage: <https://www.eds.org.nz/our-work/rm-reform-project/>

DIA WATER SERVICES BILL/3 WATERS REFORM POLICY: On 27 October 2021, Government confirmed that they would create four publicly owned water entities. <https://www.dia.govt.nz/three-waters-reform-programme-frequently-asked-questions> (See more below)

UPDATE ON NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT (NPS) FOR FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT 2020

- This new national direction, part of the Essential Freshwater reforms, contributes to the Government's commitment to stop further degradation, make immediate improvements, and restore waterways within a generation. The Freshwater NPS 2020 will provide local authorities with updated direction on how they should manage freshwater under the Resource Management Act 1991. It came into force on 3 September 2020.

A factsheet provides information on the amended regulations for intensive winter grazing, primarily for regional council staff and those managing intensive winter grazing activities. guidance will help councils and others working to implement the National Objectives Framework (NOF) and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM).

Guidance for councils and others working to implement the National Objectives Framework (NOF) and the NPS for FM 2020 (NPS-FM). Pdf available here: <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/guidance-on-the-national-objectives-framework-of-the-nps-fm/>

More information on LWAG website 'Latest news' and via this link:<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/fresh-water/national-policy-statement>

CONSERVATION REFORM: taking a phased approach to modernising the conservation system. Reforming conservation legislation is a significant project that will take time. There are some changes that can be made to the legislation in the short and medium-term to establish a foundation for comprehensive reform. There will be plenty of opportunity for the public to have a say in any changes.

Roadmap available: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/conservation-law-reform/>

The conservation law reform roadmap sets out our work over the coming years to improve legislation.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE (ZERO CARBON) AMMENDMENT ACT– The Government has a range of initiatives to help New Zealand transition to a low emissions economy and reduce the impacts of climate change: **New Zealand's climate change programme, Adapting to climate change, New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, Emissions reduction targets, Progress towards our international climate-change commitments.** Links to summary documents here: <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change>

Emissions budgets and Emissions Reduction Plan: The ERP sets out policies and strategies for meeting emissions budgets, and contributing to global efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Progress is monitored by the Climate Change Commission, as outlined in the Climate Change Response Act (2002). A new inter-departmental **executive board for climate change** has been established to provide oversight of the Government's response to climate change. It will monitor and report on the delivery of actions in the emissions reduction plan and national adaptation plan. It will also advise on the overall effectiveness and future direction of the two plans to ensure domestic emissions budgets are met. **Updating**

ETS: An oversupply in the emissions trading scheme (ETS) market has (among other factors) pushed the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) into updating the current ETS settings.

MFE: NZ'S GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY, 1990-2018 -

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2018>

SEE ALSO: 'ACTION ON AGRICULTURAL EMISSIONS' update:

<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/action-agricultural-emissionS>

IPCC — Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – February 2022:

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

Summary for Policy Makers:

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

See further international media commentary below

For James Renwick & Paul White February presentation to LWAG (including predictions relating to NZ) see minutes attached. Recording available email: janehadiadup@hotmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY: LWAG submitted in support of a Water Conservation Order for the Ngaruroro and Clive rivers initiated by Fish & Game. 'The report recommends that there should be a Water Conservation Order for the part of the river above the Whanawhana cableway to the headwaters. Eight parties have

since lodged further appeals with the Environment Court.

DoC – NIWA DoC park weather site: <https://weather.niwa.co.nz/parks>

LAWA (Land, Air, Water, Aotearoa) reports on nation-wide water quality results ?

MERCURY ENERGY LAKE LEVEL LINK

<https://www.mercury.co.nz/lakelevels>

Scroll down to select ‘Long term’ or ‘Short term’ & hover cursor over lake level lines for specific info including current level

COMMUNICATION RELATED TO: October 2022

GENERAL BUSINESS

TDC – Michael Cordell re; October 3 Waters update

WRC – Itty re; Thanks for Zone update September meeting & minutes checked

LWQ Society (Rotorua) communication re; invitation to present November symposium (*See below*) & invitation to present to LWAG early 2023

DIA – Harbourmaster re; update LWAG meeting early 2023

NZ Post re; Post Box cancellation & Westpac bank statement redirection

Charities newsletter received & annual report completed

Pierre Glyn re; November presentation to LWAG

Various LWAG mailout recipients re; email rather than snail mail agendas

WRC – Freshwater Policy Review engagement (LWAG)

Greening Taupō– newsletter received

Trees that Count – newsletter received

F&B – newsletter received

ARCHIVAL RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT (ROE) PROJECT/WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

LWAG website updated

LWAG archival project – ongoing

Pierre Glynn – correspondence/zoom call

STATUTORY PROCESSES

Te Kaupapa Kaitiaki –LWAG oral submission September 19th

TDC – Agendas and Minutes received

Contact Energy – Steve Rice re; GeoFutures hearings 18 October, further information received

WRC – Policy signals received

Te Kopua Reserve encroachment – Laurie Burdett

FARMING ISSUES & LOW N LAND USE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Panui/Wai Kōkopu newsletter received – Alison Dewes

SCIENCE UPDATE

SCIENCE INFORMATION

‘Waikato waterway nitrate levels worsening’ - Waikato Regional Council (WRC) report May 2021

(*See also ‘Latest News section LWAG website’*) www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz

Oxygen levels in lakes dropping rapidly, including Taupo - June 2021 – (*For more information ref: ‘Latest News section LWAG website’*) www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz

Statistics NZ ‘Indicators for Our fresh water 2017’ - data accessible from MfE’s website, and indicator pages with dynamic maps and graphs on Stats NZ’s website.

Acacia Bay water temperature live data is published on the LAWA staging site.

Please find link here: <http://lawa.staging.itteffect.co.nz/explore-data/waikato-region/lakes/lake-taupo/>

LERNZ Lake Ecosystem Restoration New Zealand “*Linking lake restoration research with end users to achieve outcomes*”. Please see the ‘our people’ section of this website (<http://www.lernz.co.nz/people>) and the University of Waikato website (<http://sci.waikato.ac.nz/about-us/school-of-science/staff>) www.lernz.co.nz

WRC Lake Taupō Water Quality Monitoring: Water quality for ecological health; measures Secchi depth at open water sampling site to monitor Lake Taupō's water clarity over time. They also collect water samples in the top 10 metres of lake to measure chlorophyll *a*, total phosphorus and total nitrogen. **Water quality for human contact recreation;** bacteria levels (*E. coli*) in the water at a number of sites around the edge of Lake Taupō.

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/natural-resources/water/lakes/lake-taupo/lake-taupos-water-quality/> or contact WRC's Lakes Scientist/Programme Manager - Science & Strategy Directorate

FRESHWATER FOR LIFE offers 'independent honesty into freshwater environmental reporting in New Zealand': <https://waterqualitynz.info/> including : Mike Joy's 'The Future of Food and Energy' webinar and 'The Groundswell protest claimed regulation and The Conversation article: 'taxes are unfair to farmers – the economic numbers tell a different story' (See more below)

TOI TE ORA PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES: 31 March 2022 Health warnings issued for Lake Rotorua and the Ohau Channel earlier this month have now been lifted by the local Medical Officer of Health. Email alerts for subscribers: www.toiteora.govt.nz/news

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER – Contact: secretary@tongarioriver.org.nz and check out their website <https://www.tongarioriver.org.nz/> One of the aims of the Advocates for the Tongariro River is to build widespread public awareness and support for affirmative action on key issues affecting the Tongariro River and its environment. All welcome.

LAKES WATER QUALITY SOC. 'Te Kahui Kounga Wai' – Taking care of the Rotorua Lakes–
<https://lakeswaterquality.co.nz/> 2-Day Symposium November 10 and 11. "Get on the Boat – Changes, Challenges & Maintaining Momentum"

DOC/TONGARIRO NATIONAL TROUT CENTRE Taupō for Tomorrow education programme website: www.taupofortomorrow.co.nz no longer being funded so school educational opportunities limited.

Take part in events run by the Department of **Conservation**, local businesses, and community groups during Sign up for 'What's Up DOC?' newsletter for national projects and resources online.

DOC/GENESIS - WHIO FOREVER RECOVERY PROGRAMME: In March - celebrating over 10 years of partnering with Genesis to protect the native whio. The number of protected whio breeding pairs has nearly tripled over the past 10 years, growing from 298 pairs in 2011 to 863 in 2021. Together with Genesis, DoC celebrate this milestone and the whio with stories and competitions.

MAHI AROHA SUMMER PROGRAMME CENTRAL NTH IS (See Project Tongariro below)

TREES THAT COUNT (Project Crimson affiliated) A digital marketplace connecting native tree planters with funders and counting trees. From their website: By counting the trees we all plant, we can measure our collective impact on climate change and improve our environment. As they grow, these native trees will help to remove about 2,498,207 tonnes of carbon from our atmosphere. **Link to newsletter and other info here:**

<https://www.treesthatcount.co.nz/>

ONE BILLION TREES PROGRAMME: Gvt goal to plant one billion trees by 2028.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees/>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

NATIONAL WETLAND TRUST <http://www.wetlandtrust.org.nz> a non-profit organisation established to increase the appreciation of wetlands and their values by all New Zealanders. The reserve between Hamilton and Te Awamutu is open to the public. Access is via double wooden gates off SH 3, between McFall and Jary Roads (left hand turn in and out only). The Trust is also keen to hear from willing volunteers.

PROJECT TONGARIRO: - Plenty of opportunities to get involved...check out their volunteer activities!

Community planting days Oruatua Recreation Reserve - Saturday 11 June contact Shirley Potter

shirley@tongariro.org.nz Also contact Shirley if you would like to help our SMALL Wednesday weeders

group **Community Planting Day Tauranga-Taupō** - Thursday 9 June, 9am at the end of Tuki Street.

To get involved check out - <https://www.tongariro.org.nz/> or email: info@tongariro.org.nz p: +64 7 386 6499

Predator Free Taupō – see their Facebook page for information on what's happening here & elsewhere in New Zealand. If you are keen to become involved or wish to donate a trap or two to help protect Taupō's native flora and fauna **contact them:** info@tongariro.org.nz

Toyota Kiwi Guardians Lake Rotopounamu part of a nation-wide programme encouraging families to get out and explore our special places.

GREENING TAUPŌ – new **planting dates** available: **Sun 14th Aug** 11 am Spa Park, **Sat 27th Aug** 11 am Centennial Drive

www.greeningtaupo.org.nz or contact: Robyn Ellis, Greening Taupō Coordinator 027 628 8008 or e.mail info@greeningtaupo.org.nz Look out for details in The Taupō Times, on radio, at www.greeningtaupo.org.nz or contact info@greeningtaupo.org.nz.

PWMT - Pukawa Wildlife Management Trust: set up to improve the birdlife in and around the Pukawa settlement on the southern shores of Lake Taupō. Contact Jean Stanley on 0274504982 or morepork02@gmail.com

FOREST & BIRD TAUPO BRANCH: Branch contact: Laura Dawson Phone 07 378 5975 Email laura@reap.org.nz or visit the website to get involved at: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/branches/taupo>
Forest & Bird in conjunction with DoC and Predator Free Taupō, project to clear the **Opepe Reserve** (on the Napier Taupo Road - 15 km out of town) of pests and bring back the birds. What is involved? - checking trap lines, emptying traps and re-setting them. If this appeals to you, please see: <https://predatorfreetaupo.nz/> - click on Projects.
(See update from F&B on Gvt draft Climate Change adaptation below)

MOTUOAPA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – contact Larry Hadley (treasurer) to get involved and/or receive their newsletter troutnabout.nz@gmail.com

LWQ Soc Rotorua Lakes – The Society is a community organisation that works on behalf of the whole Rotorua Community and many outside of Rotorua to ensure that lakes remain or are restored to a high quality. Contact: secretary@lakeswaterquality.co.nz

Biodiversity crisis in New Zealand link: <https://theconversation.com/despite-its-green-image-nz-has-worlds-highest-proportion-of-species-at-risk-116063>

Lakes & Waterways website

Check it out & feedback (and pictures) welcome: www.lakesandwaterwaystaupo.org.nz

Pierre Glynn is an affiliated scholar with Arizona State University and Scientist Emeritus/USGS Science & Decisions Centre (USA) with a background in geochemistry & groundwater science. His 3-yr Royal Society of New Zealand “Catalyst/Leader” Fellowship aims to bring science-policy approaches to NZ’s groundwater sector.

Pierre will be visiting Aotearoa/New Zealand in November 2022 & presenting to LWAG

**“Improving the science & management of water
& environmental issues through analyses of knowledge, narratives, & resonances”**

5.15 pm, November 17th at the Acapulco Motel Conference Room

Papers FYI 1) Glynn et al., 2022, "[Value of Information: exploring behavioral and social factors](#)"

2) Glynn et al., 2022, "[Value of information and decision pathways: concepts and case studies](#)"

A date for your diaries: Lake Water Quality Society – Rotorua Lakes

2-Day Symposium November 10 and 11.

“Get on the Boat – Changes, Challenges & Maintaining Momentum”

LWAG members discount offered:

The Lakes Water Quality Society is inviting members and supporters of the Lakes and Waterways Action Group Taupo to participate in the symposium for a reduced registration fee of \$170 GST Inclusive or \$150 GST inclusive for online (virtual attendance).

The standard registration is \$250 for the two days.

Freshwater for Life latest news:

<https://waterqualitynz.info/>

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6) contains the latest advice on human-made climate change and its effect on the planet – and people. The second of three parts of AR6 was released in April.

“Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. Any further delay in concerted, anticipatory global action... will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

Expert calls for climate change action after damning IPCC report – RNZ interview with James Renwick 6th April 2022

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018836984/expert-calls-for-climate-change-action-after-damning-ipcc-report>

"It's now or never". That's the verdict from the world's leading scientists in a landmark UN report on climate change which came out overnight.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report says rapid, systemic transformation is needed across all parts of society to rein in catastrophic global warming.

Even if all the policies to cut carbon that governments had put in place by the end of 2020 were fully implemented, the report says the world will still warm by 3.2 degrees celcius this century.

It says greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025 and then be halved this decade, or the world will be hit by "unprecedented heatwaves, terrifying storms, and widespread water shortages."

Victoria University of Wellington Professor of physical geography James Renwick spoke to Corin Dann.

The Government's The Water Services Entities Bill

- establishes four publicly owned water services entities that will provide safe, reliable, and efficient water services in place of local authorities. Following introduction of the Water Services Entities Bill on 2 June, and its subsequent first reading on 9 June, the Finance and Expenditure Committee are now accepting submissions on the Bill. Further legislation will be introduced later this year to enable the transfer of assets and liabilities from local authorities to Water Services Entities, and integrate entities into other regulatory systems. Another piece of legislation will cover economic regulation and consumer protection, to ensure water services are reasonable and affordable. A National Transition Unit will oversee the establishment of the new entities over the next two years.

The Government expects to introduce the next Bill later in 2022, with a further Bill covering regulation and consumer protection, with the aim of ensuring water services are reasonable and affordable, likely to be introduced in 2023.

<https://www.simpsongrierson.com/articles/2022/three-waters-reform-milestone-reached-with-new-water-services-entities-bill>

Climate Change MfE update

Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan is now available for download. Launched in May, it puts us on our path to net-zero emissions by 2050. To provide certainty and allow for planning, this first plan also

signals what our emissions budgets will be for 2026-2030 and 2031-2035. These budgets are ambitious, but achievable, with combined effort and commitment. A te reo Māori translation of the ERP summary is also available. <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/aotearoa-new-zealands-first-emissions-reduction-plan/>

Local government is fundamental to meeting the 2050 targets, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and helping communities to adapt to climate change. Local government makes decisions in many sectors that will need to transition; actions that relate to local government are dispersed throughout the plan, including for planning and infrastructure, transport, waste, building and construction.

TAUPO CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM – new local initiative

Please contact Jane on janehadiadup@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved

Next meeting: Friday 21st October 1pm, upstairs at the Taupō Library – all welcome

The 13 biggest environmental problems of 2022

According to [Earth.Org](https://www.earth.org/), the 13 biggest environmental problems of 22 are:

1. Global warming from fossil fuels
2. Poor governance
3. Food waste
4. Biodiversity loss
5. Plastic pollution
6. Deforestation
7. Air pollution
8. Melting ice caps and sea level rise
9. Ocean acidification
10. Agriculture
11. Food and water insecurity
12. Fast fashion and textile waste
13. Overfishing

The progress results for the 2022 Taupō District elections

Date: 8 Oct 2022, 2:04 pm

Taupō District Mayor David Trewavas has been returned for a fourth term in today’s local body elections, with a progress result of 5215 votes.

Mayor David Trewavas said he was overwhelmed to be re-elected. “It’s an honour to be selected to once again represent our beautiful district. “I’m looking forward to carrying on all the great work that we have underway and to keep working to make this a fantastic place to live for all our community.”

The other two mayoral candidates, Christine Rankin and Sean Wakelin, are currently on 3782 and 926 votes respectively.

The progress results are based on approximately 90 per cent of returned votes. It does not include some special votes and the votes returned today as they are still in transit to the processing centre.

The seven successful candidates for the Taupō ward are:

Christine Rankin	Yvonne Westerman
Kevin Taylor	Anna Park
John Williamson	Rachel Shephard
Duncan Campbell	

The successful candidate for the Tūrangi-Tongariro ward is Sandra Greenslade.

In the new Te Papamārearea Māori ward, Karam Fletcher and Danny Aperahama Loughlin were the successful candidates.

Kylie Leonard for the Taupō East Rural ward and Kirsty Trueman for the Mangakino-Pouakani ward were both re-elected unopposed.

He Waka Eke Noa: ‘Pragmatic proposal to reduce agricultural emissions and enhance exports and economy’ – Beehive press release 11.10.2022

Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Agriculture Minister Hon Damien O’Conner, Climate Change

Minister, Hon James Shaw

Proposal would see New Zealand farmers lead the world in reducing emissions and help give NZ a competitive advantage in green conscious global marketplace.

- Modelling shows Government's proposal should meet Zero Carbon Act 2030 methane reduction target
- Government largely adopts farming sector's proposal to price emissions at the farm level, giving farmers control over their own farming systems with the ability to reduce costs
- Revenue recycled back into agriculture sector through new technology, research and incentive payments to farmers

Consultation to work through sequestration, levy setting process, and transition assistance. Consultation open from now until 18 November 2022.

The Government has released for consultation a pragmatic proposal to reduce agricultural emissions, setting up our biggest export earner for future success and putting New Zealand on track to meet our 2030 methane reduction target, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced.

The Government has included many of the recommendations of the He Waka Eke Noa Partnership of agriculture sector groups for farm-level emissions pricing, and proposed modifications in the consultation document based on advice from the Climate Change Commission.

"This is an important step forward in New Zealand's transition to a low emissions future and delivers on our promise to price agriculture emissions from 2025," Jacinda Ardern said.

"The proposal aims to give New Zealand farmers control over their farming system, providing the ability to reduce costs through revenue raised from the system being recycled back to farmers, which will fund further research, tools and technology and incentives to reduce emissions.

"The proposal would see New Zealand farmers lead the world in reducing emissions, delivering a competitive advantage and enhancing our export brand.

"No other country in the world has yet developed a system for pricing and reducing agricultural emissions, so our farmers are set to benefit from being first movers.

"Cutting emissions will help New Zealand farmers to not only be the best in the world but the best for the world; gaining a price premium for climate friendly agricultural products while also helping to boost export earnings.

"We're committed to building a system that works for farmers. We will continue to work in partnership to drive as much consensus as possible to ensure we have a system that lasts the distance.

"The consultation provides an opportunity for people to provide feedback on the issues of sequestration, the levy setting process and transition support," Jacinda Ardern said.

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said the proposed farm-level emissions pricing system supported farmers to make decisions about what they do on their farms by incentivising emissions reductions and climate friendly practices.

"By rewarding farmers who take action to cut their emissions we can support more farmers to improve their productivity and profitability while achieving climate goals," Damien O'Connor said.

"The Government is already supporting farmers by investing in the development of high-impact technologies and practices, including the establishment of the new Centre for Climate Action on Agricultural Emissions to shift the dial on climate friendly farm practices.

"Farmers are already experiencing the impact of climate change with more regular drought and flooding. Taking the lead on agricultural emissions is both good for the environment and our economy," Damien O'Connor said.

Climate Change Minister James Shaw stressed the importance of working with farmers to reduce emissions, rather than relying on forestry offsets.

"The Government made a promise to put a price on agriculture emissions, after thirty years of inaction.

"By 2025 New Zealand will introduce a system that means farmers pay a price for their emissions and are rewarded for taking action to reduce their climate pollution. Countries grappling with the same challenges as us

are once again looking to New Zealand for climate leadership.

“The levy improves on the proposal put forward by the He Waka Eke Noa partnership and brings New Zealand’s gross methane reduction targets within reach. It is better than the ‘backstop’ of bringing agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme, which could see agribusiness simply offsetting farm emissions without making any actual changes to reduce emissions on farms.

“Cabinet considered a range of options alongside the levy, including a system based on managing the total volume of pollution, rather than managing the price. While this was not Cabinet’s preferred option for 2025, we are seeking feedback on its merits.

“There are a few other outstanding issues which we are keen to hear views about, such as how nitrous oxide emissions from fertiliser should be treated,” said James Shaw.

Full press release including overview of emissions reduction support details here:

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/pragmatic-proposal-reduce-agricultural-emissions-and-enhance-exports-and-economy>

RNZ Media release: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/476451/he-waka-eke-noa-government-proposes-farm-level-system-by-2025>