

**Huia Water Treatment Plant
Community Liaison Group**

Date of Meeting: 17 September 2025

Attendees:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation/Interest</u>
	Danielle Hamilton	Facilitator, Watercare
	Alistair Shanks	Secretary
	Fiona Drummond	West Auckland Historical Society
	Joanne Carter	Resident
	Paul Carter	Resident
	Angus Cathcart	Resident
	Sandra Jones	Waitākere Ranges Protection Society
	Ken Turner	Waitākere Ward Councillor
	Jacquie James	Resident
	Sean Freeman	Tree Council
	Belynda Groot	Titirangi Protection Group
	Megan Fitter	Titirangi Protection Group
	Elizabeth Stewart	Watercare
	Yvonne Jones	Watercare
	Justin Pooley	Watercare
	Angela Paki	Watercare/Aurecon

Apologies:		
	Liz Manley	Waitākere Ranges Local Board
	Ross Mitchell	Resident
	Jason Bournhill	Waima to Laingholm Pest Free
	Mels Barton	Titirangi Residents and Ratepayers

Venue: Kaurilands Hall
The Crossing
30 – 44 Kaurilands Road
Titirangi

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Introductions The members of the group, and the Watercare team, introduced themselves.	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
2.	Apologies	
	These were received.	
3.	Minutes of Meeting on 30 January 2025	
	These were approved as a correct record as no changes were suggested.	
4.	Presentation on Western Water Supply Programme	
	A presentation was given by Justin Pooley and Yvonne Jones.	
	It was explained that this presentation is going to be given at a meeting with the wider community on Wednesday, 15 October and that Watercare is looking for feedback that would improve the presentation.	
	After that meeting there will drop in sessions at Woodlands Park School Hall on Saturday, 18 October and at Laingholm Village Hall on Wednesday, 22 October.	
	The Huia Water Treatment Plant replacement, the Huia and Upper Nihotupu raw water pipeline upgrades, the Lower Nihotupu pump station replacement, and the Woodlands Park reservoirs are a part of the larger Western Water Supply Programme.	
	The presentation was given to the Waitākere Ranges Local Board on 11 October.	
	The benefits of the programme were discussed. These included the need to replace assets at the end of their life and to provide resilience and reliability to service future population growth. The existing Huia Water Treatment Plant provides about 20 per cent of Auckland’s water.	
	A plan was shown of the geotechnical investigations underway around the treatment plant site. These are about 25 per cent complete. There are regular meetings with Te Kawerau ā Maki. The geotechnical investigations are expected to be finished in late November 2025.	
	The Huia Raw Water Main to the treatment plant was discussed. Eight options have been developed, and four are now shortlisted. Assessment is made using multicriteria analysis. The next stage is to discuss the options with the community to gather feedback before a preferred option is selected and developed.	
	The Lower Nihotupu Pump Station pumps the raw water from the Lower Nihotupu Dam to the treatment plant. This pump station requires upgrades, and a new pump station is to be constructed close to the old pump station. Construction is expected to start in 2027-2028. The approximate location of the new pump station was shown. Watercare has yet to determine what will happen with the old pump station building.	
	The raw water main from the Upper Nihotupu Dam was discussed. This needs to be renewed because of its condition (it is over 100 years old) and risk of future slips. Options are being developed. Six locations were shown where geotechnical investigations will be required. A plan was shown of the	

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
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current pipeline route in blue with a possible route for a new pipeline shown in green and purple.

Two new reservoirs are to be constructed near the water treatment plant. Reservoir One will be constructed first, and then Reservoir Two on the current water treatment plant site after the plant is decommissioned. Geotechnical investigations are currently underway.

An overview plan was shown of all the proposed works. The project is still at the preliminary stage, with engineers working to identify viable options. The feasibility stage of the project is at 10 to 15 per cent of completion.

An indicative only plan was shown of the Lower Nihotupu raw water pipeline to the Huia Water Treatment Plant. It was stated that there are three tunnel options and one road option. Circles were shown of possible shafts into a tunnel.

Opportunities for feedback were discussed. These will be at the community presentation on Wednesday, 15 October and following drop-in sessions. Feedback from the community will help in the selection of route options to progress these to the next stage.

5. Discussion and Feedback

On Wednesday, 15 October at the presentation, Watercare will have various subject matter experts present to answer questions.

There was discussion on tunnels. All options once assessed will include consideration of ecological, cultural and traffic effects and other criteria as part of the multi-criteria analysis (MCA).

Feedback from the group was invited.

It was thought that photographs of existing pipes and sites would be helpful. People will want to see the actual routes of pipes and tunnels in the presentations, such as on the map for the Lower Nihotupu raw water pipeline.

Maintenance of new pipelines also needs to be considered. The question of how tunnels will be maintained was raised.

After options are selected there will be further investigations and as preferred options are considered contractors will be contacted for constructability advice (called early contractor involvement, ECI).

Better detailing of the icons shown on some of the maps in the presentation would be helpful. For example, which boreholes have been completed and which are still to be undertaken. At the treatment plant site, the locations closer to the road are accessed directly from the road. Those further south are accessed by helicopter. Questions were raised about why helicopters are being used if the bush is to be cut down. Concerns were raised about the need to contain costs.

The lizard survey is to start soon. Cameras will be used to look for pests such as wasps and rodents. The surveys will be seasonal.

NO.**ITEM****ACTION**

It was thought that on Wednesday, 15 October more information needs to be presented. But Watercare needs feedback from the community before it progresses options too much further. Watercare needs to see what is important to the community to help guide them in the option selection.

The meeting on Wednesday, 15 October will be at the Kaurilands Hall venue, starting at 6.30pm with a presentation and a drop-in session format to follow afterwards.

The drop-in sessions at Woodlands Park School Hall on Saturday, 18 October will be 1 to 3pm and at Laingholm Village Hall on Wednesday 22 October from 6.30 to 8.30 pm. These will be advertised by email, Facebook and NZ Post mail out. It was noted that Facebook events for these engagements would be useful for community members to respond to and share.

Questions were raised on the tunnel types and spoil from tunnels. It was thought that pipelines in the road would be laid with half the road open at a time as the open trench progresses.

Questions were raised about the pumped line from the Lower Nihotupu Dam. The new pump station will provide enough pressure to raise the water to the treatment plant. No extra pump station is planned along the pipeline except maybe at the treatment plant.

There were questions about the old aqueduct, if this will be reused. This is yet to be decided and would require further investigation. There was discussion about the old Nihotupu Filter Station. This is a heritage site and is part of separate programme.

There was a need expressed for Watercare to make sure it is taking the community along with it in this programme. A dedicated stakeholder engagement specialist for the Western Water Supply Programme will be appointed from November.

The group raised concerns about vibration from truck movements and the potential effects on houses close to the road. Watercare confirmed that a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan will be prepared, including pre and post construction house inspections to check for any property damage and ongoing vibration monitoring. It was noted that vibration monitoring pins will be available for households identified as impacted, as well as for any residents who feel they may be affected once construction begins.

It was suggested that Watercare develop QR Codes for scanning for information. It was reported that Watercare is developing unique URLs for making the web site and online information easier to find. It was advised Watercare now have bespoke shortened URLs in place for project pages, so people don't need to search. A new website was put in place about 18 months ago. If people consider information is missing, they were invited to contact Danielle. To note that the consent information is included in drop down menus at the bottom of the page

It would be good if a timeline could be made for people to follow at community engagement.

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	<p>There are other projects underway by Watercare to move the treated water from the Huia Water Treatment Plant to the areas it needs to service. The North Harbour 2 pipeline is one of these. The pipeline crosses the Greenhithe Bridge and goes across to Albany.</p> <p>There was a question raised if the old pipes will be removed. They are too old and too small to be reused, so they are likely to be left in place.</p> <p>There were questions about the carpark at the Nihotupu Filter Station. Who owns it, will it be upgraded, and will it be used for the construction works?</p> <p>It was reiterated that for this project Watercare and the community need to work together to get the best outcomes for the community, the water and the environment.</p> <p>Small group tours of the Huia Water Treatment Plant could be organised in the future.</p>	
6.	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Alarms have been heard from the Huia Water Treatment Plant, sometimes in the middle of the night. These can be concerning for neighbours. If Watercare could acknowledge the calls via social media it would be appreciated.</p> <p>An area for lizard relocation is being prepared.</p>	
7.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be near the end of November after the feedback from community engagement has been considered.</p>	