

Whirinaki Stakeholder Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 30 October 2025

Time: 5.00pm – 6.15pm

Location: Whirinaki Room, Pan Pac Limited

Meeting Chair: Tania Kerr

Attendees: Aroha Luke (Mana Whenua Rep), Brian McFarland, Steve Rawlinson, Angie Rawlinson, Jayde Demanser, Maggie Braviner, Darryl Mason (Landowners), Tony Clifford and Reece O’Leary (Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd), Shane Waugh (Contact Energy), Rob Fryer (Transpower), Debz Hurst (Compliance – HBRC), Jacqui Davis, Lynn McCowan and Luke Cahalin, (Project Team - HBRC)

Apologies: Martin Lott (Power Co)

	Items	Action
1.	Opening Karakia - led by HBRC	
2.	Welcome and Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none">Opening remarks were given by Tania, who welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting.A round of introductions was held.The Chair reminded members that there are strict conditions under the legislation (Order in Council), which define what the group can and cannot influence. Legislative questions or matters outside STAG’s scope will be referred through the correct channels for clarification.	
3.	Overview of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (STAG) <p>Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Established under the Order in Council (OIC), the STAG provides a structured channel of communication between the Regional Council, contractors and affected landowners and residents.An independent commissioner is appointed to review the consent. While the consent is guaranteed under the OIC, additional conditions can be imposed and the STAG helps ensure those are met.The group’s role is advisory — it provides feedback, raises issues and supports clear communication between all parties. <p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional members may be invited once the group is established, particularly to ensure balanced representation of community leaders and residents from all impacted areas.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members should contact Jacqui regarding any concerns. She will liaise with Luke, who manages the contractors. • A log will be maintained to ensure that feedback (positive or negative) is actioned promptly or tabled at the next meeting. • The group’s focus is to identify issues early, maintain constructive dialogue and ensure compliance obligations are met. • The wider community can provide feedback via their STAG representatives • There is a pollution hotline and a QR code will be displayed on-site for immediate reporting of environmental issues. • The newsletter will be bi-monthly newsletter but HBRC will make sure residents are given notice of upcoming contractor activities. • Communication will also be supported through Facebook updates and letterbox drops. • A communications plan is being developed with Aroha. • The second meeting will focus on the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) — covering how the contractor will manage environmental impacts, including spill management, accidental discovery protocols, roadworks, and stopbank construction components. • There are two CEMPs for the different project sections. • The legislative timeframe for review is tight. • Site establishment works may begin before full construction starts, but these will remain within compliance limits. <p>Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tania reminded attendees that STAG meetings are not for debating project design or costs — the focus is strictly on construction management, monitoring, and mitigation. • It was important that the STAG includes recognised community leaders who can communicate effectively with their neighbours and report back. 	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership has been slightly adjusted to include additional representatives. • The term ‘400m’ requires more clarity that it is for length and not height. • Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from January and it was agreed to start them at 4.00 pm. • Every second month an ecology report will be presented. • The Chair clarified that while discussions within the group should remain respectful and confidential, the STAG does not have formal decision-making authority. • Members can still communicate with their communities, but sensitive or unresolved matters should not be made public until verified. • The group agreed to remove the second paragraph of the confidentiality clause. 	<p>Lynn</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints can be made confidentially and will not be minuted to ensure a safe reporting process. To add STAG with HBRC for section 13. 	Lynn
5.	<p>General Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction is scheduled between 31 August 2025 and 31 March 2026. Works along SH2 are expected to begin in January 2026 with bypass road construction taking place before Christmas to allow access during the main stopbank lift. Stopbank works will finish off the remaining sections in sequence, followed by watermain upgrades and resealing. The group noted that construction sequencing and timing would be refined closer to commencement. All contractors tendered have agreed to operate within the required legislative and project timeframes. Local companies are already on the Regional Council's contractor panel. Karakia to be held on Monday morning before construction begins. A cultural morning planned for contractors to build awareness and respect for cultural values on site. Representatives confirmed: Jayde, Angie, Brian, Darryl, Reece (Tony as backup), Rob (plus a nominated backup) and Shane 	
6.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be a workshop to go over the Construction Environmental Environment Plan (CEMP. To be confirmed once contractors for the stopbank have been confirmed 	
7.	<p>Closing Karakia - led by HBRC</p>	