



AN INTRODUCTION TO

PROJECT WAI ORA

Project Wai Ora is a multi-agency project driven to finding solutions for significant water and wastewater infrastructure issues in five struggling Western Bay of Plenty communities. Each of these communities requires costly infrastructure upgrades but is hindered by a low ability for the community to meet these costs.

Our partnership is working to:

- **accurately identify the issues**
- **identify solutions; and**
- **secure funding to carry out necessary works through a multi-agency approach.**

Project Wai Ora is facilitated by Western Bay of Plenty District Council, and involves Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Ngai Te Rangi iwi, Tapuika iwi, Toi Te Ora - Public Health Organisation, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Maori Affairs, and the offices of the Members of Parliament for Bay of Plenty and Coromandel.

OUR COMMUNITIES' KEY CHALLENGES

The five identified communities each have unique issues to be addressed. Some issues are relatively new, while other problems have been ongoing for many years. In some communities wider social and housing issues also exist.

Each community requires upgrades to either their water or wastewater infrastructure, or both, and each requires a different infrastructure solution. In some cases changes to legislation and regional planning rules mean the existing infrastructure is no longer up to standard. In one community the water supply has come from a private provider that, due to legislative changes, is no longer prepared to provide water to private dwellings.

SO HOW DO WE WORK?

Project Wai Ora brought together people from these communities and key agencies to establish a clear picture of the social and infrastructure issues being faced.

For Council these issues are complex and not the sole responsibility of Council and its general ratepayers. The agencies involved have various outcomes they're seeking, which can in part be achieved by these communities having compliant water and wastewater systems.

Representatives from Tapuika and Ngai Te Rangi have carried out qualitative research with the communities to understand the challenges they're facing, why affordability is an issue and what their social and health priorities are. Key agencies have provided information on infrastructure capital costs, potential funding sources for upgrades, and shared information on the role they may play in the future.

OUR WORK SO FAR...

Project Wai Ora has already:

- determined the nature of the issues facing each community
- identified a preferred option to address the issues
- established infrastructure priorities and costs for each community
- identified preferred option to pay for the infrastructure
- approached government agencies for funding and resource support.

THE COMMUNITIES AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE THEY REQUIRE ARE SET OUT BELOW:

Matakana Island

The marae and surrounds are serviced by a septic tank too small to meet this community's needs. The septic tank recently failed when a large number of people were present on the marae. Bay of Plenty Regional Council has approved resource consent for a new onsite wastewater treatment system. The capital cost of the system is \$70,000.

Showgrounds Road, Rangiuru

This community's water is supplied by Affco. However, legislative changes now require Affco to become a Water Supply Authority if they continue supplying water to residences. Affco are looking to cease the supply to avoid the costs and liabilities associated with being a Water Supply Authority. The estimated capital cost to connect to Council's water supply is \$85,000.

Tuapiro

Council water supply is provided to the marae and some dwellings have water supply connected from

the marae – but this creates a water contamination risk through backflow issues. The estimated capital cost to connect the dwellings to Council water supply is \$56,600.

Local funders have sought a \$120,000 contribution from the Minister of Finance to fund a component of the required work for these three communities.

Otawhiwhi

Council water supply is available close to this community and some dwellings are connected. Council's reticulated wastewater network is available near the boundary, but the community has been unwilling to connect due to fear of cost and historic unresolved issues relating to a stormwater drain on private land. The estimated capital cost for connection to the water supply for the remaining dwellings is \$85,000. The estimated cost of wastewater reticulation for the main marae facilities and 15 homes is \$670,000.

Te Rereatukahia

This community has water supply to two thirds of the dwellings and the marae facilities. The estimated capital cost for connecting the remaining dwellings is \$260,000. The community has no wastewater scheme in place and the estimated capital cost to connect the marae and dwellings is about \$1 million.

NEXT STEPS?

Otawhiwhi and Te Rereatukahia have complex issues. In both communities healthy housing is likely to be their priority, before infrastructure upgrades.

Project Wai Ora intends to continue work with these two communities, including securing funding to upgrade their water and wastewater infrastructure. It's possible a project such as the Healthy Whare Project could be extended to these communities with the aim of improving the health and safety of their homes. Significant external funding will be required to implement the work needed.

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Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i nga Kuri-a-Whare ki Otamarakau ki te Uru