

Multiparty Action Group on the Owhiro Catchment established.

Solving the water contamination issues in the Owhiro Catchment is the ambitious goal of a multiparty working group that was launched on 30 September. The project is intended to be a pilot for the catchments across the Wellington Region and part of a drive to reach the Government's National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2040. It will involve fixing both public and private water infrastructure, tightening compliance around discharges by all parties, including landfills, that hold resource consents, improving data gathering and analytics to track progress, and significantly expanding public access to data.

Greater Wellington Regional Council hosted the meeting and was represented by Alistair Cross, GM Environment, Lucy Baker, Team Leader, Science and Information, James Snowden, acting head of Enforcement. Regional Public Health was represented by Mike Fisher, public health protection officer. Wellington Water was represented by Julie Alexander, Group Network Strategy and Planning, Jeremy McKibbin, Group Network Manager and Ian McSherry, Chief Advisor, Service Delivery. Eugene Doyle was the Owhiro community representative. The intention is for the next session to involve Wellington City Council and Mana Whenua representatives.

The Owhiro Pilot also represents a concrete first step in giving effect to a number of the recommendations of the Mayoral Task Force on Three Waters (coming out shortly) and is a significant project for the City and Region. It will require the parties to work together to remove all obstacles, including financial and regulatory ones, that are currently slowing remediation of the Owhiro Stream and the restoration of the Tapu Teranga Marine Reserve at Owhiro Bay to fully swimmable in the shortest reasonable timeframe.

Further Information

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