

# MINUTES



DATE Friday 12 August 2016  
TIME: 1.30pm Collingwood Tavern

SUBJECT: Aorere/Kaituna Rivercare Meeting 2016

## Present

Tasman District Council: Giles Griffith, Rick Lowe  
Taylors Contracting: Two  
Ratepayers: Eight  
Fish and Game: One

## 1. Welcome

Giles Griffith from the Tasman District Council opened the meeting and introduced the River Management Team.

## 2. Overview of River Activities

- At the start of the meeting an introduction was given to the council's produced documentary about the health of our rivers called "Our Waters in Common" which can be viewed by going to the Tasman District Council's website.
- A quiet start to the first 8 months of the year simple to previous 2 years.
- Work ramped up from last 4 months of financial year with large floods in Waimea Riwaka and Takaka Rivers as well as moderate flood in other catchments.
- New maintenance Contract has been awarded to Taylors Contracting Company Ltd.
- Stopbanks mowed in areas of Riwaka, Lower Motueka and Waimea Rivers.
- Have refurbished bench marks in the Waimea River as well as crossing of riverbed and analysis of information.
- Other river surveys underway for Wai-iti and Riwaka Rivers.
- Continue to maintain tidal outlets and floodgates.
- Chemical spraying undertaken of river fairways for woody weed control both in Tasman and Golden Bay areas.
- Aerial resource consent obtained to spray river fairways except Takaka River.
- 15,000 Native plants planted in Waimea, Wai-iti, Moutere and Lower Motueka rivers.
- Old man's beard controlled in selective areas around native plantings.
- Aorere River has had several median – high flood events this year.
- High demand for River Z funding over last 4 months as a result of flood events.
- Work on obtaining Resource Consent has been on going with mediation under taken on 28 July 2016 with agreement reached with other parties avoiding having to go to the Environment Court.
- Hydraulic modelling is under action for the Waimea River as well as review of proposed fairway lines for the Upper Motueka River.
- A national review of flood protection and river control schemes is being undertaken under the guidance of the River Managers Group.
- River balance sheet presently in strong position with no significant events over last 3 years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage ratepayer to report to Tasman District Council of any damaged noticed river frontage</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Rock Rip Rap</b></p> <p>There have been various articles regarding the use of rip rap in our rivers and the claimed decline in fish numbers due to the loss of habitat.</p> <p>As river managers we believe that the use of rip rap at the present level is not having any significant effect on fish numbers.</p> <p>There are significant other factors outside river management activities that contribute to the decline in trout numbers such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floods at the critical time when young fish have hatched.</li> <li>Higher water temperatures due to variable weather and climate changes</li> <li>Periodic sediment and nutrient inputs from upstream land use activities affecting sediment.</li> </ul> <p>There have been studies done in the Hutt River which is heavy rip rap for flood protection which supports high numbers of trout.</p> <p>Council consider all options not just rip rap when managing erosion sites in our rivers and we will look at combining softer solutions into our river management processes in the future.</p>
4.	<p><b>Gravel Management</b></p> <p>Under the current resource consent that the river managers operate under they are only able to remove gravel for river management purposes where there is a benefit to the river system.</p> <p>With the current information held there is insufficient gravel available to supply the industry demands from our rivers.</p> <p>Council will continue to extract gravel from places where it can be proven there is benefit to river management.</p>
5.	<p><b>Giant Willow Aphid Update</b></p> <p>The willow aphid continues to proliferate in the Tasman District and was especially noticeable last summer.</p> <p>It affects willow health by restricting development by reducing sugar flow to the roots. It has also been found on apple trees.</p> <p>Council is contributing to research presently being undertaken with other River Managers throughout the country.</p>
6.	<p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>One ratepayer enquired as to where we were at with the new Rivers Global Resource Consent.</p> <p>It was explained that both Fish and Game and the Engineering Service group of the Tasman District Council had appealed the conditions of the new consent which resulted in the matter going to mediation.</p> <p>As a result of the mediation hearing a compromise was able to be reach between the parties and therefore avoided the matter be deferred to the Environment Court.</p>

	<p>Several ratepayers expressed concern at the proposed Tasman District Council policy regarding 'Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Outstanding Natural Features'.</p> <p>The draft policy has identified the Upper Aorere Catchment as falling into that category and concern was expressed as to how that would affect the ability to carry out future protection works in the Aorere River.</p> <p>Gravel – discussion over the need for a river survey of the Aorere so there is data on bed levels. Critical to gravel envelope approach. Council agreed to consider surveying this river.</p>
	<b>Meeting concluded at 3:30pm</b>