



ADVISORY COMMITTEE for the Waikato REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

**Minutes of the
Advisory Committee for Regional Environment (ACRE)
held at Waikato Regional Council, Level 1 Tui/Kowhai Rooms, 160 Ward Street, Hamilton
on Wednesday 30th July 2025
3:30- 5:30pm**

ATTENDEES

Anna Casey-Cox
Megan Thomas (Minutes)
John Badham (chair)
Rachel Thompson via teams
Kristel Van Houte via teas
Steph Parkyn via teams

APOLOGIES

Wiea Montemezzani

OPENING

Karakia: Anna opens the meeting

Standing Items

Conflicts of Interest: No new conflicts

Confirmation of Minutes: Minutes from June meeting accepted and moved by Steph Parkyn)

Current Workplan:

Chair's Report:

Members Reports: No comments

Membership

- No updates on Ranga Tahi voices representative.

Update on Rangitahi Voices Waihou River clean-up

- River cleanup planned in Waihou Valley (likely near Paeroa) with BBQ trailer support

Invasive freshwater clams update (Reporoa to Turangi) – Rachel

- Clams found in Waikato River and Aqua Park (two species: Asian and Australian).
- Education focused on preventing spread to Lake Taupō.
- Resources developed with MPI and Biosecurity NZ.
- Messaging includes “Check, Clean, Dry” and distinguishing clams from native kakahi.
- Resources available online and shared with schools and parents.
- Rachel to continue school outreach and collaboration with MPI/Biosecurity NZ.

ACRE Meeting 30th July 2025



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<https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/invasive-clams>

<https://pureadvantage.org/think-like-a-forest/#premier>

ACRE Operational Plan 2025 – next priority items for action (see June minutes, Anna)

Operational Plan & Social Media

- Discussion on potential use of social media for ACRE.
- Suggestion to use existing channels (e.g. Waikato Biodiversity Forum) instead of creating new ones.
- Steph offered limited support; Rachel suggested a basic ACRE Facebook page for sharing.

Biodiversity Forum Event

- Kristel's group to host the next forum on 26 November 2025 (backup date: 12 November).
- Location: base of the mountain; accommodation offered for attendees.
- Aim to showcase lesser-known projects.

Communications with WRC

- Suggestion to include ACRE updates in the Regional Council's newsletter.
- Action to identify and contact WRC comms person.

Freshwater Reform Engagement

- REMA reform discussed; concern over lack of engagement.
- Plan to follow up with Tracy May (WRC) for potential involvement via Biodiversity Forum.

Actions

- Consider involvement in the Biodiversity Forum (26 Nov). – All
- Explore using existing social media channels for ACRE communications. – All
- Stay informed on freshwater reform and potential advocacy – All
- Contact WRC comms team about newsletter inclusion.
- Follow up with Tracy May regarding REMA reform engagement.

General Feedback

Collective Impact Project Tool

- Kristel shared insights from a meeting about a new data tool for community groups.
- Tool allows integration of various monitoring data (e.g. TrapNZ, bird monitoring, planting).
- Concerns raised about privacy, data sovereignty, and accessibility for volunteer-based groups.
- Kristel's group may pilot the tool; others interested (e.g. Rachel) can contact Nikki

Actions

- Continue engagement with Nikki on piloting the collective impact tool.
- Share updates on the Biodiversity Forum planning

Closing: Anna closes the meeting with a karakia