



## GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ

Taupō District Council  
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### Public Communication

The impact of higher levels in Lake Taupō are a hot topic at present, so Council brought together the various groups with an interest in the lake for a discussion Friday 3 March 2023.

There is a range of different agencies and groups with interests in Lake Taupō and its management. The meeting included the following representatives from Waikato Regional Council, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board, Department of Conservation, Mercury, Taupō District Council, Kuratau Erosion Committee, Mayor David Trewavas, Councillor Sandra Greenslade, Tongariro Representative Group and MP Louise Upston Office.

Invitees			
Organisation	Role	Name	Attended
Taupō District Council	Mayor	David Trewavas	✓
	Councillor	Sandra Greenslade	✓
Upston Taupō	Representative for Louise Upston	Jane Matthews	✓
Omori-Kuratau Ratepayer's Association (OKRA) Erosion Committee	Committee Member	Angela Salmon	✓
	Committee Member	James Kendall	✓
Mercury	Environment and Key Relationships Manager	Gavin Williamson	✓
	Principal Hydrologist	David Payne	✓
	Senior Environmental Advisor	Natalie Haines	✓
Waikato Regional Council	Councillor	Michael Downard	
	Director – Resource Use	Brent Sinclair	✓
	Integrated Catchment Management Director	Greg Ryan	✓
	Programme Manager	Grant Blackie	✓
Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board	Chief Executive & Commercial Development	Rakeipoho Taiaroa	
	Natural Resources Manager	Peter Shepherd	✓
	Executive Assistant	Raina Ferris-Bretherton	
Department of Conservation	Operations Manager	Dave Lumley	✓
	Senior Ranger Recreation and Heritage	Toby O'Hara	✓
Taupō District Council	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Julie Gardyne	✓
	General Manager Operations and Delivery	Andrew Moraes	✓
	District Parks Manager	Greg Hadley	✓
	Infrastructure Manager	Denis Lewis	✓
	Policy Manager	Nick Corroll	✓
	Iwi and Co Governance Manager	David Rameka	✓
Iwi Engagement Partner	Te Wharau Waaka	✓	

The round table discussion held via Microsoft Teams covered the following agenda items:

1. Factual alignment - numbers. Actual lake levels, inflows, outflows, historical comparisons etc
2. Regulatory context - who is allowed to do what, under what conditions etc
3. Response - What are the mechanisms for addressing impacts on private and public property. Physical works, funding etc
4. Future direction - what challenges and opportunities does the future hold? What policy, planning decisions might be required now to protect/capitalize on these.

Lake Taupo lake levels are inflow driven. Despite this, operation of the Taupo Control Gates helps to reduce floods and minimise drought impacts both for Lake Taupo and further downstream. Significantly higher than average rainfall levels over spring and summer have resulted in high inflows to the lake which can only be influenced to a limited extent by catchment management processes. These processes have been followed, however everyone in the meeting was aware that in late spring and over summer high lake levels combined with strong winds have contributed to lakeshore erosion, which has impacted local communities. It was also generally acknowledged that climate change will result in more volatility in future.

As a group, everybody at the meeting recognised and acknowledged the concerns and challenges around the current high lake levels and discussed opportunities for the future. There was also a desire to revisit the Taupō Catchment Management rules in future.

General agreement was reached on these points:

1. Desire to have more planned work rather than emergency, reactive work.
2. Desire to revive the Taupō Catchment Committee which was a Waikato Regional Council Committee that was disbanded.
3. Solutions to combat erosion to be consistent with the Lake Shore Erosion Management Plan developed jointly between the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board and Taupō District Council in December 2021. - Attached
4. As there is likely to be more extreme weather events in the future, planning for mitigation measures must include a wide range of scenarios.
5. Funding or mitigation measures is via the project watershed mechanism.
6. Operators of hydro schemes on rivers feeding into Lake Taupō also have a part to play in mitigating the impacts of erosion.

All parties acknowledge that not all stakeholders were represented at this meeting, this meeting was not intended to supersede any other forums for concerned parties to discuss Lake shore erosion.

All parties agree to continue to work closer together to mitigate the impacts of erosion around Lake Taupō.

END