

Terms of Reference: Ngunguru Catchment Working Group

Introduction

The Ngunguru catchment is situated 20km north east of Whangarei City and covers an area of 85 km². The catchment consists of a range of land uses and activities including production forestry (21%), indigenous forest (36%), pastoral land (29%), lifestyle properties and the urban coastal settlement of Ngunguru.

Residents have long held concerns over erosion and sedimentation within the Ngunguru catchment. The combination of steep hill country, highly erodible soils, and periodic high intensity rainfall events lead to accelerated soil erosion and downstream flooding. These events contribute sediment to the Ngunguru River and its tributaries into the estuary and out to the coast.

The Ngunguru Catchment Working Group will focus on achieving on ground actions and results, mobilising stakeholders and representative member groups, fostering collaboration and promoting practical solutions.

Draft terms of Reference

Vision: To improve land management practice within the catchment with respect to the prevention and mitigation of soil erosion and sedimentation.

Purpose: To work collaboratively with the working group to deliver targeted actions for the prevention and mitigation of soil erosion and sedimentation.

To deliver a Ngunguru Catchment erosion and sediment management plan.

Reporting to: The Environmental Management Committee (EMC) of the Northland Regional Council (NRC)

Status: Working group, appointed by the Environmental Management Committee of the Northland Regional Council.

Composition

Chairperson: The Regional Councillor appointed to the group will act as chair.

Quorum: A quorum shall include at least 50% of the normal membership.

Membership: Members have been selected to reflect the broad interests in water management in the Ngunguru River Catchment and to provide a cross-section of values, understanding and perspectives. It is expected that members will engage with their organisations and wider networks to share information and get feedback on the matters being considered.

Regional Council	One nominated Northland Regional Council representative who is a NRC Councillor and a member of the EMC.
District Council	One Whangarei District Council elected representative.
Iwi/hapu	Three members nominated by and representative of iwi/hapu with interests in the catchment: Ngati Hau, Te Wairariki, Ngati Korora, Ngati Takapari Hapū Trust, Ngati Hine, Ngatiwai, Ngapuhi, and the Ngunguru marae.
Farming	Two members nominated by their respective drystock and dairy farming interests in the catchment.
Forestry	Two members nominated by Forestry Interests.
Forest & Bird	One member nominated by the Forest & Bird Protection Society of NZ.
Conservation Board	One member nominated by the Northland Conservation Board.
Environmental Interests	One member nominated by the Save Ngunguru Sandspit Committee.
Ratepayers	One member nominated by the Tutukaka Ratepayers Association.
Community	Two members nominated by public process to represent residents of the catchment not otherwise represented.
NRC support:	NRC will provide catchment lead, secretariat and administrative support to the catchment group, as well as technical support in line with NRC functions and work programmes.

Key Tasks:

1. Develop an erosion and sediment management plan for recommendation to the EMC, including:
 - a. good management practices and other non-regulatory tools for maintaining and improving the erosion issue
 - b. costs and benefits of actions.
 - c. an implementation plan
 - d. recommendations for other relevant parties such as government, industry, community groups and landowners to consider / implement.
2. Deliver on ground actions to address sediment generation and sedimentation.

In completing the tasks the Ngunguru Catchment Group will:

- Consult with relevant stakeholders throughout the development of the erosion and sediment plan and recommendations.
- Receive, review and consider technical material as well as consultation and engagement feedback and results.

Key outputs and timeframes:

1. Inaugural meeting of the group: September 2015.
2. Erosion and sediment management plan (final) documenting the uses and values, desired environmental state, and EMC endorsed management options for the catchment: November 2018.
3. On ground actions to address sediment generation and sedimentation.