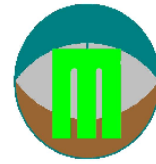


## Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group



29 May 2014

Hamilton City Council  
Private Bag 3010  
Hamilton 3240

Dear Sir/Madam

Please accept this as a submission on the **HCC Proposed 2014-15 Annual Plan**.

The background to the Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Incorporated (MSCG) and our work in conjunction with HCC and others at Sandford Park (and at other sites), is attached within Appendix 1.

The primary scope of our activities is within the catchment of the Mangakotukutuku Stream (refer to Appendix 1 map) which includes the stream and gullies within the Glenview, Melville and Fitzroy suburbs bounded approximately by the Waikato River to the north, Peacockes Road to the east and extending beyond the HCC boundary/Main Trunk Railway Line to the west.

In relation to developments proposed within the Mangakotukutuku Stream catchment, MSCG is interested in any proposed activity, policy, plan or rule development that potentially impacts on water quality, hydrology/floodplains/wetlands and/or associated ecology of the Mangakotukutuku Stream and its catchment and particular issues of potential concern relate to;

1. Riparian management and ecological restoration
2. Stormwater - attenuation/treatment and discharges
3. Potential sediment/contaminant discharges to the stream
4. In-stream structures and obstructions to fish passage, e.g. culverts
5. Encroachment of development within riparian/floodplain areas

MSCG supports generally the activities of the HCC that support/promote the objectives of our group, more specifically activities and budgets which positively contribute to resolving these issues.

Specific comments are provided as follows;

### **1. Project Watershed Operating Reserve (Water Supply and Stormwater Drainage Activities)**

HCC Proposed 2014-15 Annual Plan (page 36) states - *'To fund works relating to river flood protection and erosion control (Project Watershed). Waikato Regional Council is the funding agency and Hamilton City Council carries out agreed works within the city boundary. Opening balance July 2014 \$558,000, deposits \$543,000, expenditure \$705,000, closing balance June 2015 \$396,000.'*

There are areas of rampant stream bank erosion in the soft sandy streambanks within Sandford Park which is depositing large volumes of sediment to the Mangakotukutuku Stream and the Waikato River as shown within the attached photograph (taken July 2013) which also threatens riparian plantings undertaken by MSCG. Much of this erosion is attributable to peak stormwater flows caused by runoff from paved surfaces. It is requested that HCC investigate and implement appropriate stormflow attenuation and erosion control work using soft-engineering approaches in consultation with MSCG utilising part of almost \$400k of unspent funding for work of this nature.



## 2. Proposed Annual Plan Service Performance Measures

A number of the Proposed Annual Plan Service Performance Measures of relevance to MSCG's activities are exceedingly weak, meaningless and/or have no numeric or measureable standard, for example;

### **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES** (page 60)

26. *The city's public natural spaces to be protected and gradually restored.*

What are the criteria by which this performance measure is assessed? All HCC owned natural spaces are protected legally already by virtue of being in HCC ownership so it is unclear what further 'protection' is being proposed. Similarly, the reference to '*gradually restored*' is equally weak and meaningless without reference to park specific performance measures/management plans.

*26.1. The total number of native plants planted in natural areas each Year is 15,000 –20,000*

Although this performance measure may depend on what is meant by ‘natural areas’ (undefined in the annual plan), this measure does not seem to be accurate, for example 25,000 plants were planted at Waiwhakareke last year and by way of comparison, MSCG is responsible for planting about 9,000 native plants (including about 2,000 from HCC) in 2014, so a target of 15,000 – 20,000 for the whole city seems incredibly low and achieved by Waiwhakareke alone – Is this performance measure correct and should it differentiate between Waiwhakareke and all other areas? Does this measure include plants supplied to landowners under the HCC ‘Plants for Gullies Scheme’?

MSCG understand that the ‘Plants for Gullies Scheme’ will continue in 2014 at a level of about \$50,000 (approx.) although this is yet to be advertised. We strongly support the continuation of this scheme and (as we understand) that longer term funding is also proposed to be sought from the Waikato River Authority to provide some certainty for the scheme’s continuation over the next 10 years. There are a number of obvious improvements which could be made to this scheme, including;

- a. Increase the number of plants available (above the current 50 plant/landowner maximum) in specified circumstances, eg where 2 or more landowners co-operate together, where plantings on private land extend plantings on HCC land, for example.
- b. Promotion of the scheme much earlier each year so that landowners can undertake appropriate site preparation and weed control and/or multi-year approval of landowner proposals subject to satisfactory performance each year.
- c. Targeting of particular areas/gullies to co-ordinate with and maximise benefits of existing gully restoration activities

**NETWORK MANAGEMENT & CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT** (page 60)

*31. Council to minimise the impact of stormwater on the city’s waterways.*

How and where is this measured and reported? What is the level of compliance with WRC comprehensive stormwater discharge consents and how/where is this reported? What is HCC doing in regards to small building sites where seemingly no controls are required by the HCC to prevent sediment, concrete and other contaminant discharges to the piped HCC stormwater system, presumably in breach of the WRC stormwater consents held by HCC? These contaminants can have significant effects on instream ecology of the streams within the city, some of which (including the Mangakotukutuku Stream) contain rare and threatened native fish species. What are the HCC’s goals in terms of limiting the amount of impervious surface allowable in a catchment? What other steps are being incentivised to reduce stormwater inputs in new developments (e.g., low impact design, pervious pavers, rainwater tanks, rain gardens, swales etc)?

*31.1. The percentage of days tested where Council-managed stormwater discharges meet bathing water standards. 50%*

How and where is this measured and reported? Bathing water standards are not relevant to instream ecology – what limits on contaminants are proposed to sustain ecological values?

**WASTEWATER - Wastewater Collection I Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**  
(page 61)

38. Risks to people's health and our waterways will be minimised.

38.1. The number of wastewater overflows from pump stations and the treatment plant directly into streams and the Waikato River. No more than 100.

The Waikato Regional Plan Rule 3.5.7.8 states that...'**The discharge of untreated human effluent to water is a prohibited activity.**' – This means that no resource consent can be sought or granted for this activity, yet the HCC Proposed Annual Plan not only purports to provide for this prohibited activity but includes a performance measure allowing up to 100 overflow events per year in this regard.

Notwithstanding that this activity is prohibited under the Waikato Regional Plan and is therefore illegal under the RMA 1991, the performance measure is also ambiguously and poorly worded.

There is no volumetric or time bound component to the measure so it could 'theoretically' provide for up to 100 continuous overflow events each of unlimited volume – clearly this is not what is intended.

The performance measure only refers to overflows from pump stations and the treatment plant – what about overflows/leakage from any other part of the wastewater system?

The performance measure refers to overflows from pump stations and the treatment plant directly to streams and the Waikato River – so indirect waste water discharges to the streams or the river would be additional/outside of this performance measure?

It is understood that HCC are upgrading pump stations to reduce the occurrence of wastewater spills - of significance to MSCG is the recent upgrading of the Collins Road pump station (understood to have had a history of spills) which is immediately adjacent to the Mangakotukutuku Stream and a current site of riparian restoration for our group in conjunction with the marae at that location.

While it is acknowledged that any large waste water system will be subject to unintended spills for a variety of reasons, it is requested that the current performance measure be deleted and replaced with a more meaningful (and legal) measure, for example;

*'Wastewater system malfunctions shall be managed, mitigated and reported in accordance with resource consents granted by the Waikato Regional Council and/or any protocol agreed between the HCC & WRC in this regard.'*

Alternatively, it may be more appropriate that performance measures contains requirements for HCC public reporting of all spills, the nature of the spill, volume, duration, mitigation, number and timing and locations of spills and what the HCC is doing to reduce this risk.

### 3. Summary

In summary;

- a) It is requested that part of the \$400k reserve Project Watershed funding is directed to control areas of stream bank erosion within Sandford Park, in consultation with MSCG.
- b) It is requested that the Proposed Annual Plan Service Performance Measures of relevance to MSCG's activities (as identified above) be re-written with meaningful numeric or otherwise measureable performance standards.
- c) The 'Plants for Gullies Scheme' is strongly supported and it is requested that it continue to be provided to a level of not less than \$50,000/year and that 10 year funding of not less than \$50,000/year be sought from the Waikato River Authority.
- d) It is requested that the 'Plants for Gullies Scheme' be reviewed including those matters as set out above and appropriately promoted to encourage restoration of the Mangakotukutuku Stream gully and other gullies within the City.
- e) It is requested that performance measure 38.1 of the Proposed HCC Annual Plan regarding wastewater system malfunctions be deleted and replaced with a measure to be agreed with the Waikato Regional Council.

MSCG requests to be heard in support of this submission and is willing to attend any pre-hearing meeting or meeting with HCC staff to discuss further or clarify any aspect raised in this submission and how those matters may be resolved.

More information about our group can be found on our website.

Yours faithfully



Grant Blackie  
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## **Appendix 1 – Background to the Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group Incorporated**

The Mangakotukutuku Stream (originating west of Hamilton and flowing into the Waikato River – refer to attached map) contains a number of significant and threatened indigenous fish species and the associated gullies provide important habitat for a number of other indigenous species (eg long tailed bats and tui).

In relation to developments proposed within the catchment, MSCG is interested in any proposed activity, policy, plan or rule development that potentially impacts on water quality, hydrology/floodplains/wetlands and/or associated ecology of the Mangakotukutuku Stream and its catchment and particular issues of potential concern relate to;

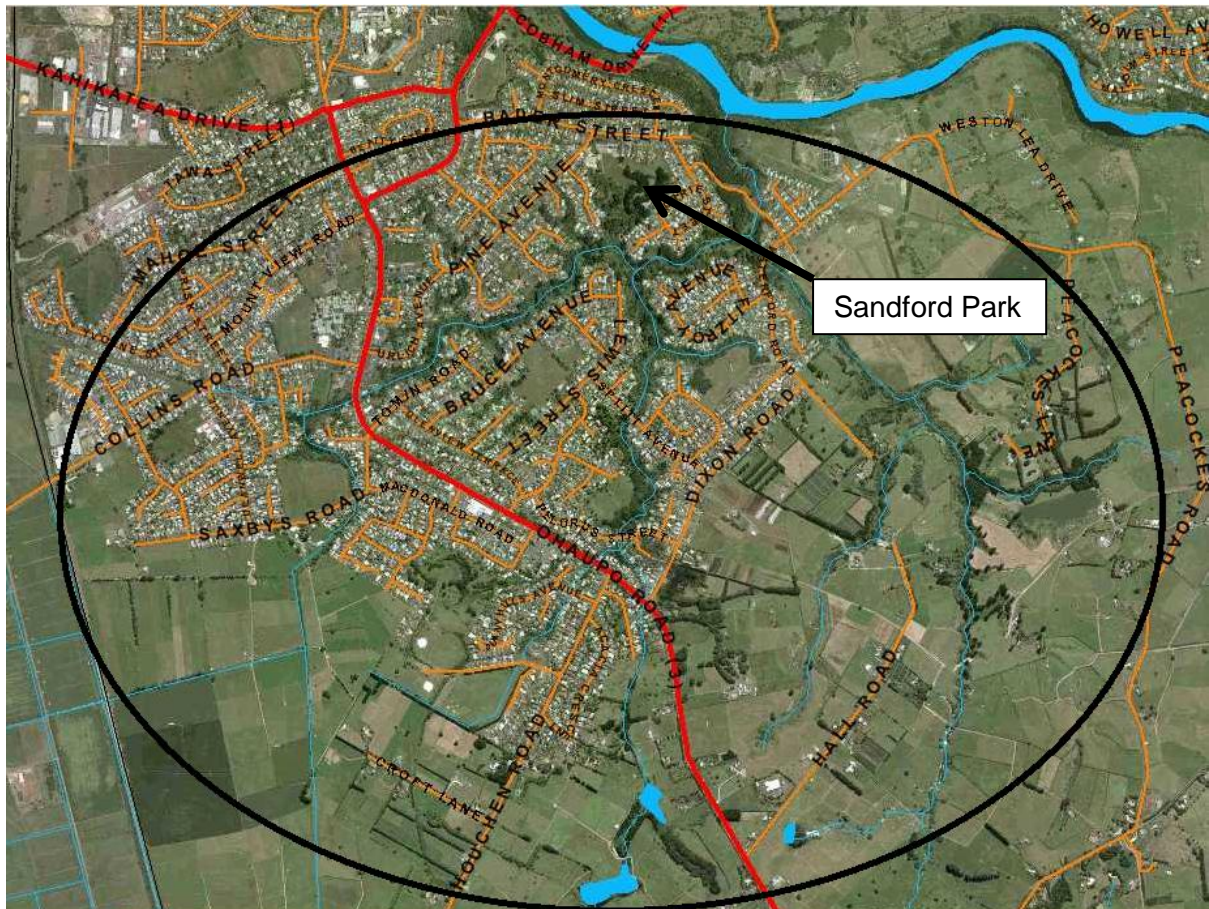
1. Riparian management and ecological restoration
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5. Encroachment of development within riparian/floodplain areas

The MSCG has a membership of over 50 individuals who have been active for the past 8 years and have undertaken and are involved with a number of projects to further the MSCG's objectives (refer <http://www.streamcare.org.nz>), including;

- a) Planting 13,000+ native plants and maintaining the lower reaches of the Mangakotukutuku Stream/Sandford Park area to restore indigenous riparian vegetation.
- b) Significant work to provide improved fish passage through the large stream culvert on Peacockes Road, below Sandford Park.
- c) The development of a wetland and in-stream fish habitat structures within the lower Mangakotukutuku Stream/Sandford Park area.
- d) Riparian restoration on two subdivisions on Saxby's Road adjacent to the stream, the marae on Collins Road and on farmland in the headwaters of the Mangakotukutuku Stream.
- e) Submissions to HCC notified processes, including the Three Waters Strategy, Variation 14 - Peacocke Structure Plan, HCC Annual Plan, Waste Management Plan, The Peacockes Area Urban Strategy and the Southern Links Project.



**Mangakotukutuku Stream Catchment – approximately as shown**



Including the stream and gullies within the Glenview, Melville and Fitzroy Suburbs bounded approximately by the Waikato River to the north, Peacocks Road to the east and extending beyond the Main Trunk Railway Line to the west.