# Omāroro Community Reference Group Minutes

**Meeting took place at The Executive Seminar Suite, Massey University, Wallace Street**

**6.00pm, Thursday 3 October 2019**

**Attendees**

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| **Ex-officio members**   * Jane Black (Chair) * Dan Ormond (Community Liaison Person) | **Community Representatives**   * Jane Loughnan * Steve Cromb * Susan Cook * Peter Cooke * Peter Graczer * Richard Thornton * Eleanor Laban * John Bishop * Alex Gray | **Representatives**   * Doug Stirrat * Bec Ramsay * Ed Rooney * Suzanne Pollard * Gareth Penhale * Bob Barber * Alex van Paassen * Cr Iona Pannett |

**Apologies**

Carol Comber; Emma Paisley, Judy Hutt, Marjory Embleton, Victor Anderlini, Sharon McGavin, Mary Hutchinson, Richard Hickman, Arne Ganseman, Joel De Boer

**Welcome and introductions**

Jane welcomed everyone, introduced new attendees Doug Stirrat substituting for Richard Hickman from Beca, Ed Rooney substituting for Arne Ganseman from BPC and Bec Ramsay substituting for Joel De Boer from from WCC.

Jane noted that the focus of the meeting would be on the project update and diversion as there were no Management Plans to consider.

**Minutes from previous meeting**

It was noted that John Bishop was present at the last meeting (not listed).

Steve also sought clarification on the minutes under the buses on Wright Street. The minutes state “*However, if the community undertook a survey or something similar of residents that showed they would prefer not to have the relocated bus stops they would consider this.”* It was clarified that it was agreed that the community needed to survey bus passengers, not residents.

Peter Cooke, informed the meeting he had done a survey at the Wallace Street bus stop and it showed 60% would be happy to use Wright St.

Steve asked how usage of the bustop would be monitored by Metlink. Jane undertook to ask Susan Wilson from Metlink for a response to this.

Susan also noted that the reference to no spray areas in the minutes should refer to the restoration area and a 1 metre buffer around the stream – not the whole park.

**Omāroro Reservoir Pipelines Update**

Ed and Suzanne provided a general update on the progress of the project:

* The laying of the bulk mains was running slightly ahead of schedule and the worksite continues to move down the street - 142m of pipes laid so far
* As the worksite has been moved down the street the top of the sStreet has been opened to residents in need of access via the emergency services track. This is a temporary measure for October
* The chamber on the corner of Wright and Hargreaves Streets is under construction with two walls poured and the floor due to be poured this week
* Work on the chamber in Howard Street has started
* Work will start on the bulk main in Howard Street soon, this will involve the removal of the garden and temporary transplanting of the Olive trees
* In Wallace Street there has been one successful install of a water main using the “pipe bursting” technique with another scheduled for Thursday 10 October. Pipe bursting is a technique of installing the new pipe within the existing one to reduce the need for excavation
* The overall work programme is currently on schedule.

**Discussion**

Jane opened the meeting up for general discussion and questions for the contractor.

* **Howard Street garden –** Peter C asked if this garden could be improved and made safer when it was reinstated as it currently creates a safety blind spot in the street. Iona undertook to raise this with the WCC Urban Design Team.
* **Signage –** Jane L raised the issue that the current signage relating to the current closure of Wright Street says it will be until December, however the work programme discussed with CRG says November. Dan explained that the signs were worst case
* **Timing of the diversion –** Steve asked about the timing of the diversion. Ed explained that the TMP was not yet signed off by WCC, and that the work on Wright/Hargreaves Streets would need to be completed before it could commence. Dan said that the current programme has a start date of 4 December for a split detour, where north bound traffic will use Wright St and south bound traffic will use Wallace Street. This is to allow the contractors to put the "corner" pipe in place from Hargreaves to Wallace Streets. Then a week later the full detour will be put in place. **Communication –** Suzanne outlined the planned communication for the detour. There will be a public/residents information session on a Saturday or Sunday 2-3 weeks before the diversion. This will also cover off the finer details of the TMP including; parking; pedestrian crossing placement, traffic carming etc. Then a wider public information campaign will start 2 weeks beforehand to encourage motorists to avoid the area and use Adelaide Road instead . A key part will be VMS boards (digital signs on trailers on the side of the road) set to divert traffic just before the diversion is put in place.
* **Parking –** Eleanor raised a concern that a Stuff report said that parking would be removed on the western side of Wright Street, when at the public meeting it had been proposed to be on the eastern side. Suzanne commented that following the public meeting she had received considerable feedback about the safety merits of each side and it had been agreed by BPC to change the side of the road and to submit the TMP on that basis. There was considerable debate on the issue and the level of community support for this. Jane B noted that it would have been useful for the change to have been communicated at the last meeting to allow for discussion, but also noted that the final decision would be made by WCC based on safety for pedestrians and drivers.
* **Power Cut –** Steve asked if the investigation into the power cut affecting residents and businesses on Wallace Street had been completed and if the report would be released. Gareth explained that these reports are usually prepared for internal purposes and are not publicly released. However, Ed provided an overview. It occurred when the directional drill was being used to install the local water main. The drill had completed the boring, however when it was pulled back it appears to have disturbed some soil and caused vibration that affected an already weakened cable. There was no direct service strike, however, it did mean the short-term loss of power to a small number of houses, businesses and the pedestrian crossing. That had an effect on a power cable that had damage or fragility to its protective casing. All these unfortunate variables lined up consequently there waspower outage for a small group. it appears that it was simply an unfortunate incident, and no-one could have done anything reasonably different to prevent it.
* **Mopeds and motorcycles usage of the footpath** – Jane L raised the ongoing concern about mopeds and motorcycles using the footpath to travel between Hargreaves and Wright Streets. It was agreed that this is an enforcement issue, rather than project issue, but the concern will be passed on to WCC.
* **TMP –** the approvals process for the TMP was discussed. Dan explained that it was still with WCC for their approval. Bob also explained that once the TMP is approved, there is still the opportunity to change. Once the diversion has started it will be closely monitored by BPC and WCC to ensure that it is working and changes can be made. Currently WCC is auditing the traffic management for the project at least weekly and this will continue through the project.

**Other Business**

Susan asked why the access across the park was just temporary, and could not be extended for the duration of the Hargreaves Street works. Bec explained that under the Town Belt Act the Town Belt can not be used for private driveways or parking. However, WCC can at its discretion grant temporary access to the park – which it has in this case. Access is for only for residents to get to their property in exceptional circumstances – such as carers who need to visit people. There is no parking permitted and no contractor access or general access. She explained that it is not possible to extend this beyond the initial 28 days as ‘temporary’ is defined in the Act as four weeks. Rolling over multiple four week periods is not an option as this would be at odds with the intention of the Act to limit this type of activity to a short period of four weeks and where there is very low impact.

**January Meeting**

Steve raised a concern that it was proposed to not have a CRG meeting in January, which was during the diversion. Jane agreed to review the need for the meeting closer to the time. Dan noted that we do not need to wait for the CRG to raise issues or concerns with how the diversion is operating – and that these should be raised in a timely manner so they can be addressed.

**Meeting closed at 7.08pm.**