



COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Member: Jennie Smeaton

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee is in the information gathering phase of its work and has been on a number of fieldtrips in the whaitua, as well as hearing from subject matter experts at its committee meetings.



The members of the whaitua committee are slowly coming together and gaining an appreciation of the contribution everyone can make to this important piece of work.

These fieldtrips are a great way to see the wider catchment and understand the impacts and pressure points in preparation for the task that lies ahead. They are also great way to get to know each other.

I have appreciated getting out and exploring the wider rohe (area) within our catchment and field trip number two did not disappoint. This trip consisted of a visit to the Strugnell whanau farm where we were able to hear a farming perspective on the pressures that they face in terms of compliance, operations and ultimately being able to run a business. This was a raw and real discussion and certainly left us all having a greater understanding and in my belief, appreciation of some very real difficulties that our farming community face in a planning framework and process.

The second and final site on our fieldtrip was Battle Hill. This area is a key site of significance for Ngāti Toa given its association to our chief, Te Rangihaeata and the Crown action taken against him and our iwi. I was able to share with our whaitua members and project team the historical importance of this area to Ngāti Toa and emphasise just how significant this area was in terms of the wider iwi history and story.

Battle Hill also provided the perfect point to view a section of the Transmission Gully route. The scale and significance of the project can be quite overwhelming and hard to comprehend so looking over the area of where this major road will be built helped put things into perspective.

This was another well thought out and planned field trip and I would like to acknowledge the project team who have organised these for us.

More information:

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The quality of our water reflects
the quality of our habits on land