

## **Policy package strawmen for Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee to consider at 15.06.2017 meeting**

At the 25.05.2017 meeting, the Committee spent some time getting familiar with the parts of a policy package for land and water management issues in Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua. This memo briefly outlines the background to a series of policy package strawmen for consideration at the 15.06.2017 Committee meeting.

The policy packages have been split into four 'policy themes' covering the main types of activities the Committee needs to address in the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP):

- Rural
- New development – Greenfield
- New development – Infill/Brownfield
- Existing urban

These themes are starting points for this work and may be changed as the Committee progresses.

Within the policy package for each policy theme, a number of 'practice areas' have been identified in order to break down the specific activities the Committee may wish to make recommendations in relation to. These have been chosen and defined according to the types of controls GWRC has under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The Project Team has then filled each policy package table with recommended policy tools for consideration by the Committee. These recommendations have been informed by the high level objectives for the whaitua identified by the Committee in 2016 and the Committee's Terms of Reference.

In continuing this work, it is useful for the Committee members to think about the following:

- How do you want people's behaviour to change and how will the package create this change?
- How would each option, on its own or together with other options, address the problem?
- How strong should regulatory controls be?

In putting this material together for the Committee, and going forward providing advice to the Committee, the Project Team is thinking about some of the following:

- The level of certainty for those being regulated
- The cumulative impact of multiple rules on the same land parcel or area
- Factual basis of the thresholds of certain rules
- Other factors of appropriateness, including the regional council's responsibilities under the RMA

- Connectivity between different RMA and asset management planning processes
- How models of motivating behaviour change might inform policy recommendations

Finally, over the last two years, some important messages for delivering a robust and meaningful WIP have emerged which are useful to reflect on. The Project Team has roughly summarised these as:

- Better connection is needed from objectives to lower level planning and operations, supported by clear and concise objectives, limits and guiding policy
- Influencing the practices of the key organisations involved in land and water management is very important. This can be driven from clear objectives and limits and be further supported from recommendations that encourage integrated delivery at different planning scales
- Solutions packages should think about short, medium and long term goals, actions and targets, in order to describe pathways to improvement over time
- Community buy in and better community understanding of the water will help build social licence to implement policies that are expensive or painful. Policy packages and delivery should look to enhance community connections to water