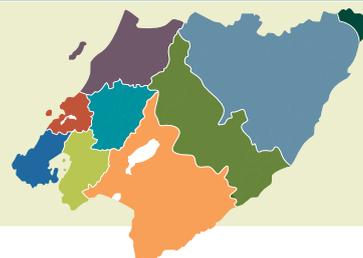


Regional plan review

NEWSLETTER NO 3, APRIL 2012



What's happening now and where are we heading?

This is the third in our series of regional plan updates. Included:

- a brief summary of our 2011 public engagement report, generated from last year's public workshops on regional plan issues and goals
- what's happening now, and
- the process for developing a Proposed Regional Plan for public discussion by mid 2013

2011 Public engagement

In 2011, the engagement strategy had four parts:

- Workshops with the general public in six regional catchments: western coastal, Porirua Harbour, northern Wellington Harbour, southern Wellington Harbour, Ruamahanga River, and eastern coastal catchments

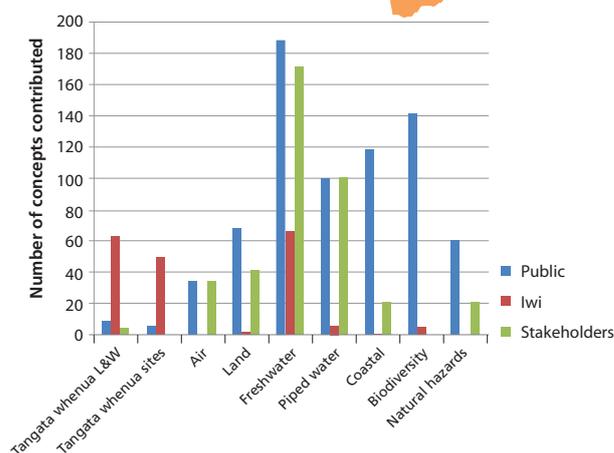
These events were attended by about 150 people in total.

- An online survey was viewed by 265 people
- Hui were held with three iwi groups with mana whenua in the region; these involved 35 people
- Two workshops were held with stakeholder organisations in Wellington and Masterton involving about 60 people in total

The full report is available at

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Plans--Publications/Publicengagementreport2011.pdf>

Give us feedback about the regional plan review
regional-plan@gw.govt.nz



Different topics within the proposed regional plan

The graph above shows the number of different ideas contributed by the public, Iwi and stakeholders in different areas of regional plan development

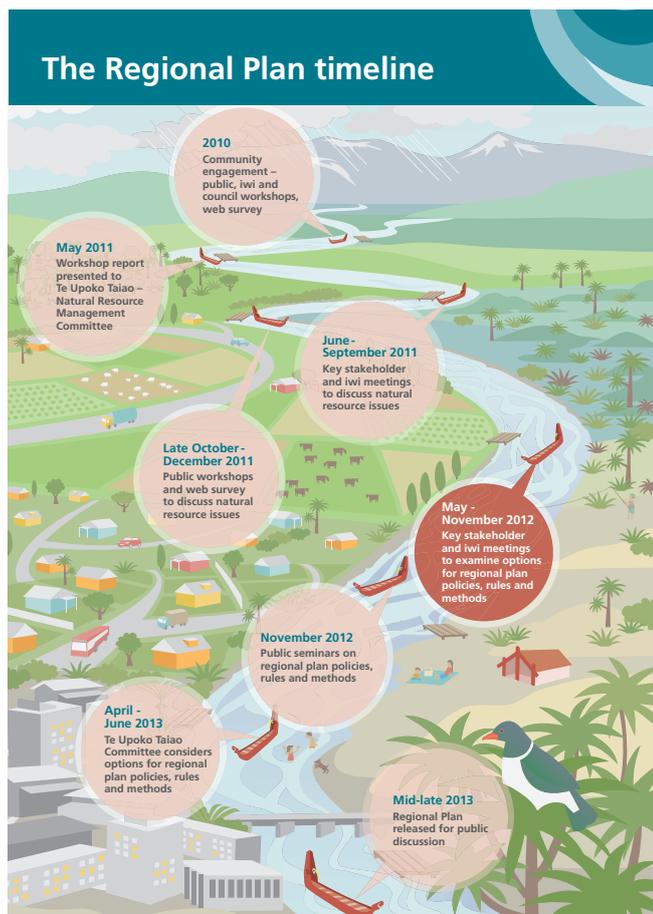
Highlights of 2011 public engagement

- There were many responses and ideas to address a range of freshwater issues – such as nutrient budgeting, requiring fencing of waterways, more enforcement, and incentives for those doing the right thing
- Some participants said the plan needed to ensure public access to coastal areas was preserved; according to others, vehicles should be prohibited from some coastal areas and their impacts minimised through regulation and education
- Many participants wanted the plan to have rules and approaches to protect the region's biodiversity – they said discharges from stormwater, subdivisions and rural activities should be minimised. More education was needed for people to understand the benefits of healthy biodiversity and ecosystems
- Iwi groups generated most of their ideas about freshwater, relationships between tangata whenua and land and water, and important sites to tangata whenua
- Stakeholders groups were again interested in policies on freshwater, sewerage and stormwater systems

Regional Plan review - what's happening now?

The results from the 2011 iwi and public workshops, and stakeholder meetings form the basis for the next stage of regional plan work: examining options for regional plan policies, rules and methods.

- From May-November 2012, GW staff will hold a number of meetings with key stakeholder groups and Iwi to consider and refine options for policies, rules and methods
- In November this year, we will hold public information seminars to discuss the regional plan make up. The focus of the seminars is on keeping people up-to-date with the plan's development and where we are heading in terms of its policies, rules and methods
- Between April and June 2013, Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resource Management Committee will deliberate on final policy options before a Regional Plan is released for public comment around the middle of 2013



Land and Water Forum Report

The Land and Water Forum is a multi-party, collaborative process providing recommendations to the Government on achieving better water resource management. The Forum is soon to release a report of its deliberations on the setting of water quality and quantity limits. The Forum's recommendations are part of wider Government reforms around the management of water resources that may well impact on the current plan review time line. We will keep you up to date on any changes to the plan development process through these newsletters.

Where can I go to find out more information?

For information on workshop results, background information about the regional plan review, and science and policy information, see:

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/your-environment-are-we-on-the-right-track-3>

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