

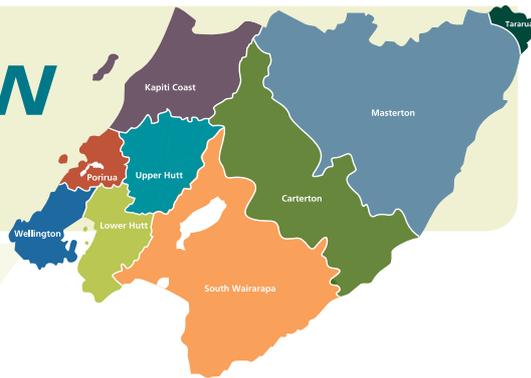
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greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Regional plan review

NEWSLETTER NO 6, September 2013



This is the sixth of our regional plan updates. In this newsletter we cover:

- the development of the first zone committee - the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee; and
- remind you of the process around the regional plan review.

Your environment, your future
Tō taiao, tō oranga

Whaitua committees

Greater Wellington Regional Council is putting together a community based catchment committee to recommend how the council will manage land and water in the Ruamāhanga Catchment. Regional council chair Fran Wilde, Rangitane o Wairarapa chief executive Jason Kerehi and staff briefed more than 70 people at the Carterton Events Centre on the 1st September, about the role of the committee and how it will be chosen.

Community leaders in all aspects of farming, iwi affairs and the environment, along with district councillors, attended and were interested to hear about this new approach in addressing community aspirations for managing the land-use and water quality.

The regional council will involve local whaitua committees in natural resource planning in a similar way

in all the other main catchments of the Wellington region, but the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is the first.

Chair Wilde says the committee will set a vision for land and water management in the Ruamāhanga Catchment.

“Freshwater is at the heart of our environment and our success in managing it is hugely important. We are looking for people who understand the environment and can work together to find long term solutions that will benefit the wider community in the Ruamāhanga Catchment.”

The group will be called the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee – whaitua being Māori for designated space.

“This new approach is starting with the community telling the regional council how it wants the environment to be managed, not the other way around”.



The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee will need to consider how urban, rural and industrial activities affect the land and water of the Wairarapa Valley – Featherston, looking south.

Applications to join the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

The Ruamāhanga Catchment takes in all the land that directly or eventually drains into the Ruamāhanga River. This is the main Wairarapa Valley from Mount Bruce to Lake Ferry, with the Rimutaka and Tararua Ranges on one side and the eastern hills on the other.

The committee needs people who have a connection with the catchment and can work together to find solutions for the good of everyone in the Ruamāhanga Catchment.

We are looking forward to receiving some strong applications for membership and making real progress in our approach to managing land and water resources in the Ruamāhanga Whaitua.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua will work with Wairarapa communities and technical people to establish water quality limits for the catchment and develop policies and rules to control how water quality is managed in their area. They will report back to Greater Wellington Regional Council in two years' time. **The application period closes 30 September 2013.**

For more information go to <http://www.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua-committee/> or e-mail us at ruamahangawhaitua@gw.govt.nz



Fitting whaitua committees into the regional plan

As you may recall from the July newsletter, the regional council is preparing to release a draft of the regional plan for public comment in early 2014. Also, as indicated we have brought together much of the discussion to date into a working document. We will use this working document to continue conversations with stakeholders and interested parties leading to the publication of the Draft Regional Plan, early in 2014.

The Draft Regional Plan and whaitua processes will operate in parallel, as we move to bring the five separate documents containing the region's existing policies and rules into a single regional plan. Space will be made in the draft plan for policies and rules that are yet to be developed by the whaitua committees in the major regional catchments - Ruamāhanga, Eastern Wairarapa, Hutt/Wellington, Porirua Harbour and Kāpiti Coast - each of which will have their own chapter addressing local conditions.

The process is designed to achieve integrated catchment management. Basically it will bring together the region-wide policies into one integrated framework, which will also include national policies and standards, but also enable specific policies and rules to address issues and conditions relevant to the environmental conditions in different catchments.

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee will look at land and water management from the where the rivers leave the mountains and flow down the Wairarapa Valley - the Waingawa River just south of Masterton.

Where can I go to find out more information?

- Background information about the regional plan review: www.gw.govt.nz/your-environment
- State of the environment report cards: www.gw.govt.nz/ser

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For more information, contact
Greater Wellington:

Wellington office
PO Box 11646
Manners Street
Wellington 6142
T 04 384 5708
F 04 385 6960

Masterton office
PO Box 41
Masterton 5840
T 06 378 2484
F 06 378 2146

Upper Hutt office
PO Box 40847
T 04 526 4133
F 04 526 4171

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info@gw.govt.nz

