

What's your view?

about our environment

Quality for Life



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Plan Review

Summary of workshop results

NEWSLETTER 1, DECEMBER 2010

Introduction

This is the first of our regional plan updates which you are receiving either because you participated in a natural resource workshop earlier in the year or responded to the online survey on natural resource management.

This initial newsletter provides you with a brief summary of workshop results, an update on progress with the analysis of results and information on the next stages of the plan development.

About the workshops

15 public workshops were held throughout the Wellington region from 7 July to 9 September. Each workshop involved small groups of 6-8 people facilitated by Council staff, following a standard workshop template. The aim of the template was to provide an opportunity for all participants to contribute their ideas in ways that could be included in the planning process with as little modification as possible.

The summaries that follow are based upon the numerical scales that formed the initial part of each template and that were in the web survey.

Two scales were used by workshop participants, one for the natural resources in the best condition and one for the natural resources in worst condition. Individual workshop participants first selected the natural resources that they wished to evaluate in each category and then they scored the state of that resource using a visual scale.



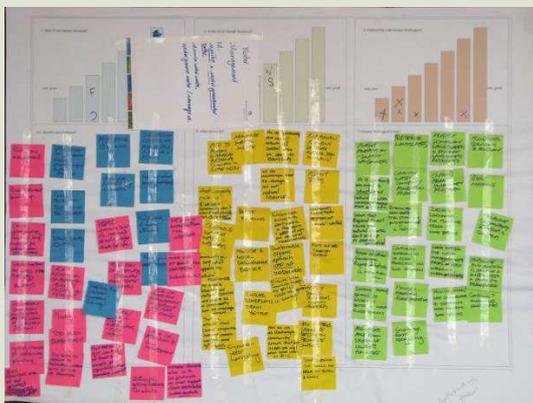
Example of workshop template showing numerical scales at top and post-it notes below (for people's comments on natural resource benefits and problems, and the roles of the community and the regional council in improving natural resource management)

The full workshop report can be downloaded from www.gw.govt.nz/workshop-report/. The full report contains everything participants ranked, wrote and said during the workshops.

A further analysis of the workshop data is underway and a report will be produced in the first half of 2011.

Wairarapa workshops

At the **Martinborough** workshop, air was the resource identified for protection rather than improvement. Water was most often identified as an opportunity for improvement. Results for biodiversity and landscape form were polarised, with people identifying them to be either in very poor condition or very good condition. Soils and coastal areas were the least evaluated of the natural resources included in the workshop.



Masterton meeting participants identified air as being in a good state, followed by soils. They selected water as being in the worst state and it is scored relatively badly. The other resources, such as coastal areas were selected by only a few people, although they scored quite poorly.

Again, water was the natural resource generally selected by **Tinui workshop** participants as being in the worst state of any of the natural resources, although it only scored in the mid range and not particularly poorly. Landscape form, coastal areas and biodiversity were picked as the natural resource in the worst condition by a few people, but only landscape form and coastal areas scored badly. Overall, Tinui workshop participants identified most natural resources for protection rather than improvement. Water was most often identified with being in a poor state and so had the greatest community support for policy intervention.

Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata workshops

The Hutt and Wainuiomata River communities met at workshops in Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt and Wainuiomata. Air was consistently the resource selected as being in the best condition. Generally,

water was selected as the resource in the worst condition and needing improvement.

In **Upper Hutt**, air was selected most commonly as the natural resource in the best condition. Both soils and water were equally identified as the natural resources in the worst condition. Biodiversity was sometimes considered as the resource in the best condition, but more commonly considered to be in poor condition.

In the **Lower Hutt** workshop results, natural resources were considered to be in either a very good or a very poor condition with not much in between. Overall, air was most often considered to be in good condition and so needing protection. Water and biodiversity were most often considered to be in poor condition and so needed improvement.

Wainuiomata only had one subgroup operating at their workshop, which identified air as the resource in the best condition, and water as the resource in the worst condition.

Kapiti Coast and Porirua workshops

Workshops were held in Porirua, Paekakariki, Paraparaumu and Otaki. The participants at these workshops generally identified air as the natural resource in the best condition, although people at Porirua also scored landscape form highly. Generally water and landscape form were commonly considered to be the natural resources in the worst condition. Sometimes this also included biodiversity and soils.

The participants at the **Paekakariki** workshop identified a range of natural resources as being in good condition. Of these, biodiversity and air scored particularly well. The same groups of participants scored soils and landscape form poorly, although sometimes biodiversity also scored poorly.



At **Paraparaumu**, participants generally scored air as the natural resource in the best condition. Water was scored most often as the natural resource in the worst condition, although biodiversity was also given a poor score.

Participants at the **Porirua** workshop scored landscape form and coastal areas as the resources in the best condition. In contrast; water, coastal areas and soils, were all commonly selected as being resources in poor condition.

At **Otaki**, the workshop participants identified air as being the resource in the best condition, and water as the resource in the worst condition. Of concern is that all the resources except air were identified as resources in a poor condition by some of the participants.

Wellington workshops

Wellington City workshops were held in Berhampore, Johnsonville, Central City, Thorndon and Rongotai. In these results it is apparent that air was considered to be the natural resource in the best condition, with biodiversity not far behind. Water was generally the resource considered to be in the worst condition by most people.

Additional workshops were held with stakeholder and professional groups at the Wellington Town Hall, and with children at Owhiro Bay School.

Participants at the **Berhampore** workshop identified biodiversity and air as the natural resources in the best condition. They most commonly selected water as the resource in the worst condition.



Berhampore meeting, 24 August 2010

At the **Johnsonville** workshop participants identified biodiversity as the natural resource in the best condition. Water and air were the natural resources identified most commonly as the resources in the worst condition.

In the **Central City** and **Thorndon**, the workshop participants most commonly identified air as the natural resource in the best condition. Water was commonly identified as the natural resource in the worst condition.

The **Karori** workshop had only one subgroup. This group most commonly identified landscape form as the natural resource in the best condition. Biodiversity, soils and water were equally commonly scored as the resources in the worst condition.

Rongotai workshop participants commonly identified air as the natural resource in the best condition.

Other workshops

The full verbatim report also contains the results of additional workshops held with professionals associated with "stakeholder" organisations working with Greater Wellington and with school children attending Owhiro School.

Online survey

In the online survey – to which 851 responses were received – people on average assessed the state of natural resources in the region as being midrange with room for improvement (an average score of 5-6 on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent). The results of the web survey are also on the GW website at www.gw.govt.nz/web-survey.

Overall summary

When the results from all the workshops across the whole Wellington region are combined, air is quite definitely the natural resource most often considered to be in the best condition. The current condition of the region's air needs to be protected for the future.

Across the whole region water was most commonly considered to be the natural resource in the worst condition. The state of the region's fresh water bodies needs to be improved for the future.

The condition of the other natural resources was considered by the workshop participants to be ambiguous. Some people and some workshop groups were quite concerned by the state of the region's biodiversity, landscape form, coastal areas and soils. Others were less so.

The next report on this stage of the public engagement is due in 2011. It will explore more fully some of the suggestions from the workshops on how Greater Wellington Regional Council could improve the condition of natural resources in the region.

What are we doing now?

Workshops with territorial authorities and Iwi

We are holding a series of workshops with territorial authorities and the seven iwi of the region.

Full analysis of public workshops

A subsequent report in the first quarter of 2011 will summarise and collate the results further. The subsequent report will also contain the results of the current series of workshops with territorial authorities and partner iwi organisations.



Otaki workshop participants, 7 August 2010

