

11 December 2018

## Major water quality issues identified in Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua

- Reductions in water contamination required in all streams throughout Porirua
- Many streams currently below national bottom lines
- Porirua Stream requires 75% reduction in *E.coli* by 2040 to meet National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) requirements
- Reduce sediment entering harbour by 40%
- Reduce urban contaminants (particularly heavy metals – zinc and copper) entering urban streams (and thus the harbour) by 40%
- Improve habitat and natural character of streams.

## High level summary of Whaitua Implementation Programme Recommendations

### Habitat and ecosystem health

- Building on the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan, develop comprehensive 'ecosystem and habitat programme' to achieve WIP objectives
- Prioritise catchments for protection and enhancement
- Extensive programme of planting and maintenance
- Regulatory protection of riparian margins (setbacks etc.).

### Urban development

- Amend Proposed Natural Resources Plan (pNRP) to provide regional land use controls on urban development to manage effects on water quality, including requirements for water sensitive urban design, maximum contaminant loads, and more stringent controls on urban development outside identified urban areas
- Amend pNRP to manage stormwater discharges to achieve objectives, limits and targets including requirements for applications and stormwater strategies to demonstrate how this will be achieved
- Incentivise stormwater mitigations within existing urban footprint
- Implement options to progressively remove high zinc and copper yielding building materials from existing urban areas.

### Infrastructure

- Wellington Water to develop and implement projects, strategies and service plans to achieve objectives, limits and targets for *E.Coli* and enterococci
- Relevant agencies develop a comprehensive programme to address issues with private wastewater network
- Amend pNRP to ensure wastewater discharges are managed to achieve objectives, limits and targets.

## Land disturbance activities

- Undertake proactive compliance monitoring of earthworks and forestry practices and promote good management practices through guidance and education.

## Rural issues

- Amend pNRP to exclude stock from waterbodies in lowland areas (similar to other parts of region)
- Identify priority areas of erosion prone land and work with landowners to develop plans to reduce sediment losses
- Amend pNRP to require management plans on erosion prone land that demonstrate how sediment losses will be reduced.

## Alignment with GWRC direction

- Giving effect to NPS-FM through community-led whitua programme
- Similar responses to rural issues as in Ruamāhanga WIP, e.g., stock exclusion, riparian management, managing erodible land
- Building on existing GW programmes, e.g., riparian planting and fencing, assessing future use and management of parks
- Human health risks will decrease in medium term through reduced *E.coli* contamination; ecological improvements will be over longer term through reduced sediment and heavy metals
- GW stepping into urban land use controls to manage effects on waterways and harbour

## Alignment with PCC and WCC direction

To a large degree, the response of the Whitua Committee builds on community aspirations and existing work by PCC and WCC including:

- Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan
- PCC's 2018 Long Term Plan increased funding for improvements to wastewater network and treatment plant
- Draft Porirua District Plan has protection of the health and wellbeing of harbour as a key strategic objective and includes water sensitive design
- GW officers are working closely with PCC and WCC officers to ensure respective Urban Growth Strategies align with Whitua objectives
- WCC's Stebbings Structure Plan is consistent with Whitua objectives.

## What happens with the WIP?

- WIP recommendations will be available from January 7, 2019
- WIP will be finalised February 2019
- GWRC will receive the WIP and note the recommendations
- GWRC will develop a Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua plan change to the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (pNRP) based on the WIP recommendations and assess and give effect to the non-regulatory recommendations
- Expectation that PCC, WCC and Wellington Water will also receive the WIP, consider the recommendations relevant to them and give effect to these
- Public launch in March 2019