

Programme of time-limited stages for implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPS-FM) and progress to February 2017

Pursuant to Policy E1 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014, the Wellington Regional Council gives public notice of the following staged Programme for implementation and the progress to February 2017.

	Regional Plan and LTP	Collaborative process for developing catchment specific management approaches	Implementation progress to February 2017
2013	Release a Working Document for Discussion for comment and discussion.	Identify five whitua for the region.	<p>A Working Document for Discussion was publicly released in August 2013.</p> <p>The five whitua for the region were identified in June 2013. The purpose, role, membership, and timing of whitua committees were also reported to the Council at the same time.</p> <p>Members of the Ruamahanga Whitua Committee were appointed in December 2013</p>
2014	Release a draft Natural Resources Plan for comment and discussion.	Establish the process for collaboration with communities in Ruamahanga Whitua and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua in the region.	<p>Following consultation with stakeholders on a Working Document for Discussion, a draft Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region was released in September 2014.</p> <p>The Ruamahanga Whiatua Committee held its first meeting in February 2014.</p> <p>The process for establishing the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whitua Committee was reported to the Council in July 2014. Members of the Committee were appointed in December 2014.</p>

	Regional Plan and LTP	Collaborative process for developing catchment specific management approaches	Implementation progress to February 2017
2015	Notify Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan for the Wellington Region.		The Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region was publicly notified on 31 July 2015. The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee first met in February 2015.
2017		Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) completed for Ruamāhanga Whaitua Establish process for collaboration with communities in Wellington/Hutt Whaitua WIP completed for Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua.	Not applicable
2018	Notify Regional Plan changes in response to WIPs completed for Ruamāhanga Whaitua and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua. LTP provides funding for implementation of non-regulatory methods in response to the WIPs completed Ruamāhanga Whaitua and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua.		Not applicable
2019		Establish process for collaboration with communities in Kapiti Whaitua	Not applicable
2020		WIP completed for Wellington/Hutt Whaitua. Establish process for collaboration with communities in Wairarapa Coast Whaitua.	Not applicable

	Regional Plan and LTP	Collaborative process for developing catchment specific management approaches	Implementation progress to February 2017
2021	Notify Regional Plan change in response to WIP completed for Wellington/Hutt Whaitua. LTP provides funding for implementation of non-regulatory methods in response to WIP completed for Wellington/Hutt Whaitua.		Not applicable
2022		WIP complete for Kapiti Whaitua.	Not applicable
2023	Notify Regional Plan change in response to WIP completed for Kapiti Whaitua. LTP provides funding for implementation of non-regulatory methods in response to WIP completed for Kapiti Whaitua.	WIP completed for Wairarapa Coast Waitua	Not applicable
2024	Notify Regional Plan change in response to WIP completed for Wairarapa Coast Whaitua. LTP provides funding for implementation of non-regulatory methods in response to WIP completed for Wairarapa Coast Whaitua..		Not applicable

Role of the Whaitua Committees

The Whaitua Committees are advisory bodies established by the Wellington Regional Council. They will develop Whaitua Implementation Programmes (WIPs) in an open, communicative and collaborative manner – inclusive of community, partners and stakeholders.

WIPs will contain strategies and actions which will form a Programme of work to implement the NPS-FM within the whaitua. They may include recommendations for both statutory and non-statutory actions/methods.

The following details on the intent and content of the WIP are from the Terms of Reference for Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua whaitua committees:

Development of the WIP will include, as relevant to each whaitua:

- (a) An assessment of region wide objectives contained in the proposed or operative regional plan, as they relate to the whaitua,*
- (b) Specific whaitua objectives and targets for water quality and quantity outcomes, including setting timeframes and priorities for achieving whaitua or catchment objectives and targets,*
- (c) Water quality and/or discharge limits, including for sediment, nutrients and other contaminants if appropriate, including setting timeframes and priorities, and management methods, to achieve freshwater and coastal objectives,*
- (d) Identification of mana whenua values and interests in fresh water, and how these might be reflected in the regional plan,*
- (e) An assessment of, and recommendations to alter, existing water allocation limits, to achieve identified objectives for the whaitua,*
- (f) Programmes or activities that will support or contribute to the achievement of the established objectives for water quality and quantity outcomes, including such tools as environmental accords and post-settlement arrangements and,*
- (g) Opportunities for the active integration of existing Programmes and plans to achieve the objectives and targets for water quality and quantity outcomes.*

In developing WIPs, the following matters will also be considered, as appropriate, in each whaitua:

- (a) Identification of the land and water issues, challenges, and opportunities for the whaitua,*
- (b) Identification of a vision of the future of land and water management for the whaitua,*
- (c) The management of rivers for flood hazard mitigation,*
- (d) The management of stormwater and wastewater infrastructure,*
- (e) Priority water allocation and secondary allocation,*
- (f) Demand supply management for all uses and their implications,*

- (g) The management of sediment inputs into the harbour,*
- (h) Interactions between groundwater and surface water, fresh water, land use and coastal environments, and*
- (i) Significant water use projects, such as irrigation and electricity generation.*

The full Terms of Reference for the current whitua processes can be found here [<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Ruamahanga-Whaitua/TermsOfReferenceRuamahangaWhaituaCommittee.pdf>] for the Ruamāhanga whitua and here [<http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Whaitua/Te-Awarua-o-Porirua/TermsOfReferenceTeAwaruaoPoriruaWhaituaCommittee.pdf>] for Te Awarua-o-Porirua whitua.

Adoption of WIP recommendations by the Wellington Regional Council

On receiving each WIP, the Wellington Regional Council will:

- Undertake a plan change or (or variation) to the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) in order to incorporate regulatory recommendations of the WIP. The PNRP contains chapters for each whaitua in anticipation of whaitua-specific plan changes. Upon any such plan change, both the relevant region-wide provisions of the PNRP and the adopted whaitua-specific provisions apply to activities undertaken within the whaitua.
- Implement non-regulatory recommendations of the WIP, including seeking funding through the next Long Term Plan process.
- For any requirements of the NPS-FM that the WIP does not fulfil, and which the Whaitua Committee is unable to produce recommendations on, develop and notify any necessary changes to the PNRP.

Other actions to implement the NPS-FM

As well as the requirements to implement policy CA2 and set freshwater objectives for all fresh water in the Wellington Region, the NPS-FM contains other directions for which the Wellington Regional Council will develop work Programmes in order to implement. These are to:

- Develop a freshwater accounting system for water quantity and water quality by 1 August 2016, in accordance with NPS-FM Policy CC1, and
- Develop and implement a monitoring plan to monitor progress towards any freshwater objectives set for the Wellington Region, in accordance with NPS-FM Policy CB1.