

Wetland Restoration Management Plan

– guide for external applicants



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

A wetland restoration management plan (RMP)¹, approved by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC), enables activities to restore a wetland ‘that are not otherwise permitted’² to be carried out as a controlled activity under Rule R106³ of the proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (pNRP)⁴. This guide is intended to inform external applicants of the process and information required when preparing a RMP and the accompanying resource consent application.

- The GWRC Environmental Regulation department is the main point of contact for applicants and will process the resource consent required to accompany an RMP. This department can specifically provide advice on the consenting process, and assist with identifying affected parties.
- The GWRC Biodiversity department provides ecological advice to landowners about protecting and restoring wetlands and are involved in the RMP review stage.

Step-by-step process

1. Ensure draft RMP and resource consent application is prepared by a suitably qualified person (eg, wetland ecologist) on behalf of the applicant:⁵
 - a. Meeting the requirements of ‘Schedule F3a: Contents of restoration management plans’ of the pNRP (text in Appendix A)
 - b. Use the ‘wetland restoration management plan template’ (See Appendix C)
 - c. In consultation with the landowner(s), the GWRC Environmental Regulation department, iwi⁶ and other affected parties⁷
 - d. Using the example RMP (See Appendix B)
 - e. In consultation with the guide ‘Applying for a resource consent’⁸
2. Internal review of the draft RMP will be carried out by the GWRC Biodiversity department
3. Applicant will be advised if further information or changes required (if applicable)
4. If RMP meets all requirements, final RMP approval will be given by the General Manager – Catchment Management at GWRC
5. Applicant to submit final resource consent application to the GWRC Environmental Regulation Department with the following information:
 - a. Resource consent application (Form 1)⁹
 - b. Written approvals of any affected persons (if applicable) (Form 1b)¹⁰
 - c. Relevant activity forms (Forms 2-7)¹¹
 - d. Approved RMP
 - e. Other documentation as appropriate¹² eg, reports, monitoring plans etc.

1 The proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (pNRP), 2019 defines a “wetland restoration management plan” as a plan required for managing the restoration of a wetland under Rule R106 of the pNRP, where the restoration involves activities otherwise managed by Rules R98, R107, R108, R109 and R110.

2 Definitions of permitted/controlled/prohibited activities can be found at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Plans--Publications/Regional-Plan-Review/Proposed-Plan/Wetlands.pdf>

3 Under pNRP Rule R106, restoration activities that are not otherwise permitted under pNRP rules R104 and R105 will be granted consent provided they are stipulated in, and carried out in accordance with, an approved wetland restoration management plan (see Appendix A for Rule text).

4 Depending on the activity and/or wetland status in the pNRP, other rules may be appropriate too, so early consultation with the Environmental Regulation department at GWRC is recommended.

5 Note the duration of the RMP and resource consent should align. Both documents need to be valid for the activity to proceed.

6 Mana whenua values often extend beyond the subject site to up and downstream sites, and the wider catchment.

7 Potentially affected parties include: owners or occupiers of land and neighbours; downstream and adjoining property owners; community or environmental groups; local iwi; the Department of Conservation; New Zealand Fish and Game Council; and local city or district councils.

8 http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Resource-Consents/1659_ApplyingforaReso_s3206.pdf

9 <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Resource-Consents/Forms/Form-1-Resource-Consent-Application.pdf>

10 <http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Resource-Consents/Forms/Form-1b-Written-approval-of-an-affected-person.pdf>

11 <http://www.gw.govt.nz/Forms/>

12 Note fees are waived for resource consent applications submitted under Rule R106 of the pNRP at the discretion of GWRC.

Appendix A: Relevant excerpts from the pNRP

Rule R106: Restoration of significant natural wetlands and outstanding natural wetlands – controlled activity

Activities for the purpose of the **restoration** of the indigenous biodiversity of a **significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland** identified in Schedule A3 (outstanding wetlands), that are not permitted by rules R104 and R105, are controlled activities provided the following condition is met:

- (a) the activities are stipulated in and carried out in accordance with an approved **wetland restoration management plan**.

Matters of control

1. Removal, damage or modification of indigenous vegetation
2. Changes to the hydrology of the **significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland**
3. Species for planting
4. Amount of disturbance and deposition that may occur
5. Timing of the activities
6. Management of sites with significant **mana whenua** values in any **significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland** identified in Schedule C (mana whenua)
7. Type, frequency, density and timing of **livestock** access to, and (where there is no practicable alternative) the limited location of fencing within, the **significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland**
8. Ongoing **significant natural wetland or outstanding natural wetland** management
9. Methods of pest control, including the use of aerial spraying

Notification

In respect of Rule R106, applications are precluded from public notification (unless special circumstances apply).

Waiver of consent fees

To encourage and support the **restoration** of wetlands, GWRC will waive resource consent fees issued for this rule at its discretion.

Schedule F3a: Contents of wetland restoration management plans

Wetland restoration management plans plans shall be prepared by or with GWRC, or for the Council by a person with the appropriate professional qualifications, and approved by a General Manager at GWRC. As a minimum, wetland restoration management plans shall provide adequate information on the items listed below. **Wetland restoration management plans** that do not meet these requirements will be declined. The grounds for declining a plan can be appealed to GWRC.

GWRC will assist landowners to apply for resource consents if they are required to carry out the activities in **wetland restoration management plans** under rule R106, and will waive the fees for these consents at its discretion.

1. Property details

Give an overview of the property. Details must include the physical address, names of owners, a legal description, relevant contact details and a map. Tenure of the land and any legal protection or designation must also be included. Include information on any management partners and/or key stakeholders relevant to the restoration management plan.

2. Values

Describe the site's values in so far as they are relevant to the **wetland restoration management plan**. These will include general ecological values, threatened ecosystems and species, mana whenua values, and others, such as cultural and landscape values.

3. Issues

Describe the current state of the identified values. Discuss the threats facing the values and the opportunities for restoring them.

4. Management objectives

State specific objectives for managing the site based on the values and issues described. Ensure appropriate consideration is given to relevant statutory/non-statutory plans, existing or necessary resource consents, landowner agreements and/or stakeholder agreements.

5. Operational plan

Outline the activities that will be carried out to achieve the management objectives. Give timelines for these activities and identify who has responsibility for resourcing and delivering them. Include maps to show operational areas.

6. Review & reporting

Describe the approach to assessing progress against the **wetland restoration management plan**. Give the reporting timelines and ensure that any resource consent reporting requirements are covered.

Appendix B: Example Plan

This example of a wetland restoration management plan (RMP) gives a sense of what it could look like, download this [here](#).

Appendix C: Template

If you're now ready to create a wetland restoration management plan (RMP) we've made a simple template to fill in. You can download this by clicking on this [link](#).