

## **DRAFT WIP: 'COMMON THREAD' THINKING AND RECOMMENDATIONS 3.12.18**

*This is a work in progress as we work through where in the WIP structure it best fits. It contains common threads of thinking and recommendations which apply across the whole piece of work.*

*It is to cover off the need for a range of tools and initiatives necessary to support the successful implementation of the WIP.*

*Note that the underlined recommendations include feedback supplied by Committee over the past week.*

### **Education**

Points this section may cover:

- The Committee recognises that a critical component to the achievement of the objectives is the support and engagement of individual people. The nature and level of engagement is influenced by the connection that people and communities have with the rivers, streams and harbours within the whaitua.
- A substantial shift is needed in how water is managed in both urban and rural settings - this requires a far more engaged and 'water-aware' community
- There is a disconnect between the value the community places on waterways and the harbour, the causes of degradation, and understanding of what is required to address the problems
- Integrated education campaigns are needed to enhance community connections to water and to engender an all-of-community effort
- All of our practices, whether individual, business, or institution, and their impacts on waterways and the harbour, need to be highlighted, with emphasis on high risk places and industries
- Point of sale and new landowners are valuable moments for triggering engagement and education

#### *Recommendations*

Greater Wellington, WCC, PCC and Wellington Water work together to increase the community's awareness of and connection to the freshwater and coastal environments. This may include:

- Amendment of LIM reports (residential and commercial) to add an 'Environmental Water Zone' that links each property to its freshwater catchment and harbour
- Identifying streams by name from catchment to point of discharge
- Using stream names on stormwater network infrastructure and asset plans where the permanent flows are conveyed in pipes
- Develop and install appropriate signs at all of the harbour 'streams' outlets whether open or in pipes
- School and community engagement projects focused on streams and the harbour

## **Encouraging innovation**

Points this section may cover:

- Regulations should focus on the desired outcome, leaving room for innovation and site-specific responses
- Agencies should actively encourage innovation

### *Recommendations*

Innovation in land and water management practice in Te Awarua-o-Porirua whitua should be encouraged and actively facilitated by Greater Wellington, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council and Wellington Water, including by:

- Including a policy in the PNRP to be considered in resource consent processes, that recognises the value of innovative practice in the achievement of the objectives of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour whitua
- Taking opportunities for ongoing plan changes and updates to guidance documents to provide for innovative practice
- Avoiding resource consent conditions that would prevent trialling of alternative management approaches where change and future proofing are known drivers, while also recognising the need to mitigate risk
- Encouraging and providing opportunities for landowners and sector groups to develop innovative practice

## **Integrated land and water planning**

Points this section may cover:

- Integrated planning must be implemented to ensure decisions made upstream protect downstream environments and to achieve the water quality goals, including careful consideration where roles and relationships with landowners overlap
- Engagement of any local authority by landowners needs to recognise and find opportunity in the multiple rules and directions that a property may need to respond to, aligning practices through integrated implementation
- Spatial planning approaches can be a powerful mechanism for delivering urban development outcomes aligned with positive outcomes for water
- Clear connection from objectives to other scales of planning and delivery is necessary and must be supported by concise objectives, limits and guiding policies
- Clear connection between any regulations affecting the actions of an individual and the objectives they are part of achieving
- Reducing rural and urban pollution at source must be prioritised, but where this cannot be achieved the possibility of communal or sub-catchment treatment devices should be explored in existing and new urban spaces
- Regulation of urban discharges is necessary to provide certainty and to create change and must be clearly coordinated between institutions
- A consistent and reliable approach should be taken to the enforcement of all water-related policies, bylaws and regulations

- New rules and regulations for existing land uses need to describe a clear pathway over time and provide time for landowners to adapt, and incentives should be included to enhance uptake
- Enable infrastructure renewal programmes and asset management plans – pipes, roofs, roads, footpaths etc., and greenfield and brownfield development to align with the water quality objectives

### **Future Proofing**

Point this section may cover:

- Reference to both wanting to protect against climate change impacts but also against potential future pressures that are currently unknown; plus allowing space for changes to the recommendations in light of new information and new technologies

### **Continuous improvement**

The objectives given in this WIP cover a range of attributes related to the community values and allow us to express outcomes in relation to those attributes. They are not an exhaustive list of attributes that affect the values, and some are intended to be proxies for a range of contaminants that will likely need to be managed in similar ways to reduce their effects on the health of Te Awarua-o-Porirua streams and coast.

These objectives are also guided by our understanding of what it might take to change conditions from where they are now into the objective state. In some cases, we don't know if it would be possible to reach higher objectives given current conditions and methods available to make improvements. The Committee acknowledges that this means some objectives have been set at levels that might not match the community aspirations for the streams and coast in some cases.

#### *Recommendations*

The Committee shares aspirations to improve the health of Te Awarua-o-Porirua streams and coast beyond these objectives over a longer timeframe. To recognise this, the Committee recommends:

- the objectives described in Section 2 and the responses in the remaining sections of the WIP to help achieve them
- that all objectives and responses are regularly reviewed to seek continuous improvement in the health of Te Awarua-o-Porirua streams and coast over time.
- Greater Wellington, WCC, PCC and Wellington Water invest in research and development to identify and adopt innovation and future technologies to address freshwater issues

### **Further investigations and monitoring**

Points this section may cover:

- Monitoring should provide meaningful and transparent data to foster shared understandings of the state of our water and support informed decision-making in response to water quality issues

- Monitoring plans must be practical and affordable with monitoring sites selected for their representative qualities of the water management units in the whitua and their ability to measure progress towards meeting the values of the whitua community
- Monitoring should provide the information needed to regularly review the impact of the policy responses and inform an adaptive approach to these solutions over the long term.

#### *Recommendations*

Greater Wellington undertakes a prioritisation exercise to determine the further investigations and/or monitoring that need to be completed in Te Awarua-o-Porirua to better understand effects and/or to establish causality to inform future management. The priorities identified in the following recommendation should also be included.

The following investigations should be considered priorities as part of the implementation of Recommendation above:

- Gaining a better understanding of the potential sources of contamination from the stormwater network and the long term efficacy of changes in management practices.

#### **Leading by example**

Points this section may cover:

- Greater Wellington is a large organisation with numerous functions and the ability to show case good management practice through Council-led projects.

#### *Recommendations*

Greater Wellington, PCC, WCC and Wellington Water leads by example and maximises the opportunities provided through Council-led projects to demonstrate good management practice in respect of both urban and rural water quality and ecosystem health management. Including by:

- Demonstrating good water sensitive urban design practice on internal projects such as town centre redevelopments, transport hubs and buildings.
- Investigate replacing the copper brake pads in Council fleet vehicles over time with low copper or copper free alternatives
- Demonstrating and showcasing good practice land and ecosystem management on council land
- Promoting best practice by community and industry champions.