



# Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

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## SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (RWC) are getting ready to ask the Ruamāhanga River catchment community some critical questions to direct the next important stage of work towards a Whaitua Implementation Programme – a guiding document for local land and water management. This programme will describe local rules for land and water use and will fit into the guiding regional document, the Natural Resources Plan.

“We have heard a lot from the community at meetings, workshops and through informal and formal conversations with urban and rural landowners, people who use the waterway for recreation and people who attach a deep significance to the river and the land around it,” says Peter Gawith, RWC Chair.

Last year the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee held a series of workshops across the catchment to understand and document community ‘values’ – the cultural,

recreational, environmental or economic significance people place on land and water.

“Now we want to hear your thoughts on how we can meet the community’s aspirations for water quality and quantity. How can we achieve our vision of Wairarapa – where water glistens?”

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee has gathered and considered a significant amount of science and research into the complexities of land and water management, and considered this in the context of:

- climate change
- national and regional laws and policies
- the local economy and infrastructure
- community aspirations.

All research and information is available at:  
<http://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua>.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee will be holding public meetings across the Ruamāhanga River catchment to discuss important land and water management questions. Get ready to join in the debate – what do you think about some of the questions below?

Humans have changed the natural character of our land and water systems in some places. Can these be re-balanced – do we need them to be?

What level of water quality do you want for the Ruamāhanga River catchment – do you know what affects it?

Do you swim in the rivers? During low rainfall our rivers are affected by bacteria called toxic algae – is there anything we can do to change that? If so, how quickly do you want to do this?

When there is low rainfall we have to share the water fairly for drinking water, to keep our agricultural economy going and other uses. How do we manage this now? Can we do it better?

Want to know more? Go to:

<http://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-whaitua>

Look out for meeting dates near you.

