



Report **04.29**
Date 22 January 2004

File WP/02/13/01

Committee **Rural Services and Wairarapa**
Authors **Siobhan McDonnell, Resource Advisor**
 Graham Sevicke-Jones, Section Leader

Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment

1. Purpose

To seek approval for the Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment (attached).

2. Background

The Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee approved the Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment in September 2003. The plan was then sent out for public consultation during October 2003. Feedback from this process has helped shape the final plan.

3. Discussion

3.1 Overall Process for Planning Water Allocation in the Catchment

The overall process for planning the allocation of the water resource within the catchment is shown in Figure 1 (attached). As can be seen, work on the Water Allocation Plan has been ongoing since 1997. There have been 2 stages of public consultation up to this point, detailed below.

The plan will support the statutory process for a plan change to the *Regional Freshwater Plan for the Wellington Region* (RFP), scheduled to begin later in 2004, subject to approval from the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee. The proposed restrictions set out in the plan will be incorporated into the RFP to provide a higher level of protection of instream values than at present.

3.2 Consultation

Initial consultation was undertaken in 2001 to determine who values the Mangatarere and why. As part of the recent consultation, local residents, consent holders and key organisations were sent a copy of the Draft Water Allocation Plan. Approximately 60 copies were sent out and a public meeting was held.

Comments were received from local residents and consent holders/farmers, the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game, Carterton District Council, Federated Farmers, Rangitaane O Wairarapa, Forest and Bird and Wairarapa District Health Board. This feedback, which was on the whole supportive, has helped shape the final plan. This is discussed below.

Key organisations and the community will have a third opportunity to get involved, during the proposed plan change notification process, where they can make formal submissions if they wish. Appeals can be made to the Environment Court where appropriate.

3.3 Finalising the plan

An important part of the consultation process is to ensure the community and key organisations consider the proposed Instream Management Objective appropriate for the catchment, and, to identify the preferred flow regime and core allocation for each reach. Feedback indicated the following:

- The majority of comments were supportive of the proposed Instream Management Objective.
- The preferred flow regimes emerged as those that provided both a minimum flow that requires taking water to cease completely, *and* an additional trigger flow, requiring takes to be reduced by 50%. These have been identified in the final plan as the preferred flow regimes.
- The options also included a choice between setting allocation at the existing consented quantity or allowing additional allocation in the lower reach. The majority of feedback favoured a more cautious approach with no further allocation allowed. This has been reflected in the final plan.

Other feedback has been incorporated into the final plan as summarised in Section 3.3.2 of the plan.

4. Communications

There are no immediate communications proposed. However, subject to approval from the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee, later in 2004, Greater Wellington will commence the plan change notification process, as mentioned above. This process will include consultation with key organisations and the community.

5. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- (i) receives the report, and*
- (ii) resolves to recommend to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee that it be incorporated in the Regional Freshwater Plan.*

Report prepared by:

Siobhan McDonnell
Resource Advisor

Report prepared by:

Graham Sevicke-Jones
Section Leader

Report approved by:

Steve Blakemore
Manager, Planning & Resources

Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa