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Committee Council
Author Murray McLea, Senior Policy Advisor

Progress report on implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

1. Purpose

To report on progress of Greater Wellington Regional Council's programme towards the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FW). Regional councils are required to publicly report annually on progress.

2. Background

The (NPS-FM) was gazetted in July 2011. It includes land and water policies that regional councils must implement by December 2030.

2.1 The NPS-FM

Key policy areas the NPS-FW requires regional councils to give effect to include:

- Establishing freshwater objectives and limits for water quality and quantity for all water bodies in the region
- Avoiding over-allocation and phasing out of existing over-allocation
- Providing for the efficient allocation and use of water
- Stating criteria for the transfer of water permits
- Improving integrated management of fresh water
- Providing for the involvement of iwi and hapu and ensuring that tangata whenua values and interests are identified and reflected in the management of fresh water.

2.2 The programme of implementation

In December 2012, Greater Wellington Regional Council adopted the programme of implementation set out in **Attachment 1** of this report. The programme of implementation was publicly notified on our website in January 2013. The NPS-FM requires regional councils to publicly report every year on the extent to which the programme has been implemented.

3. The programme of implementation

The programme of implementation adopted by the Council has two key elements. The first key element is a new region-wide plan including land and water provisions that give effect in part to the NPS-FM. Greater Wellington Regional Council's five regional plans are currently being reviewed and will be integrated into a single regional plan. Review of two of the regional plans – the Regional Freshwater Plan and the Regional Discharges to Land Plan – are particularly relevant to implementing the NPS-FW.

The second key element of the programme implementing the NPS-FW is the whitua process. Much of the NPS-FM will be implemented through whitua committees. The whitua committees are catchment-based and will use collaborative processes to develop catchment-specific approaches across the region. Five whitua have been identified based around the geographic areas of the, Wairarapa Coast, Ruamāhanga River, Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley, Porirua Harbour, and the Kapiti Coast. Whitua committees will make recommendations to the Council on plan changes/variations to give effect to the NPS-FW in full.

4. Progress on the programme of implementation

Over the last year good progress has been made on the programme of implementation of the NPS-FM. The progress made against the time-limited stages for implementation of the NPS-FM is reported in column four of **Attachment 1** of this report.

A Working Document for Discussion on the region-wide provisions of the regional plan was released in July 2013 followed by consultation with stakeholders. Following consultation on the Working Document for Discussion, Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee in its workshop of 12 February 2014 indicated its preference to release region-wide provisions of the draft regional plan in September 2014 and a proposed regional plan in March-April 2015.

Significant progress has also been made in establishing whitua committees. In June 2013 the establishment process for all whitua and the Ruamāhanga Whitua Committee in particular, was reported to the Council (Report 13.660). Five whitua in the region were identified: Wairarapa Coast, Ruamāhanga, Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley, Porirua Harbour, and Kapiti Coast. In establishing the role of the whitua committees, their membership, Terms of Reference, and timeframes were also identified. The specific process for establishing the first Whitua Committee (the Ruamāhanga Whitua

Committee) was formalised. In December 2013 members of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee were appointed (Report PE13.1035). The first meeting of the Ruamāhanga Committee was on 3 February 2014. Attention has now turned to establishing the Wellington and Hutt Valley Whaitua Committee and a similar process for identifying terms of reference and appointing members will soon follow.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Notes that Attachment 1 of the report will be posted on the Greater Wellington Regional Council website to publicly report on progress to date of the programme for implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.***

Report prepared by:

Murray McLea
Senior Policy Advisor

Report approved by:

Jonathan Streat
Manager Environmental
Policy

Report approved by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management
Group

Attachment 1: Programme of time-limited stages for implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and progress to February 2014