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Committee Council  
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## Hutt and Wainuiomata Orongorongo Water Collection Areas Management Plan 2016

### 1. Purpose

To adopt the Hutt and Wainuiomata Orongorongo Water Collection Areas Management Plan.

### 2. Background

The Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972, under which the Hutt and Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection Areas are held, does not require preparation of management plans, and no management plan currently exists for these areas. Whilst the Parks Network Plan (2011) is the overarching management plan for the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) park network, its scope does not encompass the two water collection areas (WCA), which are managed primarily for water supply purposes.

Recognising this gap, a draft plan was developed in 2008 but not adopted by Council. With the commencement of shared management of the water collection areas between Wellington Water and GWRC, the need for a management plan arose again. A draft plan was prepared under the guidance of a project steering group comprised of representatives from GWRC and Wellington Water. The management plan focusses on management of the water catchments of the Hutt and Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo rivers upstream of the water intakes.

The primary goals of the management plan address water quality and supply and the management of threats. Core goals are achieving water quality which meets or exceeds drinking water standards, and catchment management to maximise volumes of raw water. Secondary goals encompass protection and enhancement of biodiversity and heritage values, providing for limited recreation opportunities, and maintaining collaborative working relationships between agencies and partners in delivery.

The draft plan was presented to the Environment Committee on 21 June 2016 and approved for partner and stakeholder consultation. An information sheet was sent to the Wellington Water Committee.

The draft plan has been approved by the Three Waters Decision Making Committee of Wellington Water.

### **3. Consultation**

Preparation of the management plan involved extensive internal communication with subject matter experts within GWRC and Wellington Water and discussions with representatives from other agencies such as the Department of Conservation (DOC) and iwi. The draft plan was sent to DOC, the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust, Heritage New Zealand, and the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Ngati Toa Rangatira for review and feedback.

Positive feedback was received from the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust, Heritage New Zealand, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Ngati Toa Rangatira. Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust indicated that they were very busy and had other priorities so the consultation time frame was extended a further month to allow more time to receive their feedback. However no feedback was received.

Feedback included:

- Heritage New Zealand identified a single pre-1900 registered archaeological site within the Hutt Water Collection Area.
- Suggested inclusion of Heritage New Zealand within the actions relating to collaborative working relationships, as well as reference to the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014
- Suggested reference to the Wainuiomata Water Works Dam (also known as the Lower Dam) as a registered archaeological site. Clarification of the relevance to the Plan of the Wainuiomata Lower/ Water Works Dam, which is located near the boundary of the water collection area, but within the Wainuiomata Recreation Area and managed under the Parks Network Plan.
- Referencing the threat status for rare or endangered birds found within the catchments.
- Suggested map changes from DOC including identifying the Papatahi Crossing track on maps as a DOC managed tramping track, part of which enters the Orongorongo catchment (approximately 1.5km), as well as the Whakanui Track which traverses the Rimutaka Forest Park close to the water collection area.
- Ngati Toa Rangatira also had a number of questions and points of clarification about particular details which were answered directly with further information. They also asked that GWRC Te Hunga Whirwhiri officers to provide further input to the Plan, and section 5.4 which references cultural heritage was updated.

- Minor typographical corrections were also suggested.

The Rimutaka Forest Park Trust also provided photographs of volunteers undertaking work in the Wainuiomata catchment for inclusion in the Plan.

General public consultation was not considered to be necessary because public visits to the water collection areas are not encouraged, other than guided access tours into Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo WCA.

#### 4. Final Plan

The final Plan encompasses changes from the feedback above. Section 5.4 Cultural Heritage was reviewed and amended in liaison with Ngati Toa Rangatira and GWRC's Te Hunga Whiriwhiri team. A new map was added to show the general location of the archaeological site in the Hutt WCA.

Reference to the Wainuiomata Lower/ Water Works dam was retained in the Plan, because it is historically connected to the catchment and offers park visitors' information about water collection and management through interpretation panels.

##### *Other considerations*

The Havelock North water contamination incident occurred during the period when the final Plan was being prepared. The Hutt and Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo water collection areas are closed public access and have high biodiversity value native forest. This makes them very different to the Hawkes Bay water sources. However, the Plan was further reviewed by GWRC and Wellington Water officers in the light of this incident.

No changes were required but reference was made to this water contamination incident. Officers consider that the development of this new management plan, its threats based approach, and detailed documentation of agency roles and work, supports the sound management of the water collection areas to minimise risks of water contamination through the internationally standard 'multiple barrier approach' (which is depicted in section 6, Figure 2 of the Plan).

Two references are made to this recent water contamination incident:

- Section 6.2 of the Plan, "Water contamination from feral animals or livestock" already referenced the major Milwaukee disease outbreak from cryptosporidium protozoa parasites in 1993. A reference has been added to the Plan as the Havelock North disease outbreak incident as being under investigation.
- Also in this section under 'Threat minimisation and mitigation' a further reference was made to the importance of undertaking ongoing pest animal control in the water collection areas to minimise risks of water contamination.

A two page information sheet for the plan has been developed and is appended as **Attachment 1**. The Hutt and Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection

Areas Management Plan itself is appended as **Attachment 2**. A short summary document for the plan will also be produced. Graphic design of the draft documents is proposed to be undertaken after Council approval.

## **5. Communication**

The development of the management plan is a significant milestone for management of the water collection areas which supply 60% of Wellington's water. The focus of the management plan is policy and operational guidance to ensure cohesive management between agencies and achievement of water quality and supply objectives. However, the management plan is expected to be of general public interest and a useful general reference for volunteers and others with an interest in the water collection areas.

Publication of the management plan, information sheet and short summary document on the GWRC and Wellington Water websites is considered appropriate, along with communication to partners and stakeholders, and a press release to local media.

## **6. The decision-making process and significance**

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

### **6.1 Significance of the decision**

Part 6 requires GWRC to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Due to the 'closed' nature of the water collection areas for public visits, and the focus of the plan as GWRC and Wellington Water policy and operational guidance, officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### **6.2 Engagement**

Section 3 of this report sets out the consultation undertaken to develop the draft Plan.

## **7. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

- 1. Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes that the management plan has been approved by the Wellington Water Three Waters Decision Making Committee.*
4. *Adopts the Hutt and Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection Areas Management Plan 2016 as set out in attachment 2 to this report.*
5. *Delegates to the Chair the ability to make minor edits and amendments to the plan.*

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**Attachment 1:** Information sheet. Hutt and Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection Areas Management Plan 2016

**Attachment 2:** Draft Hutt and Wainuiomata / Orongorongo Water Collection Areas Management Plan 2016 (circulated separately)