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Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resources Plan Committee
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Proposed Natural Resources Plan – implementation programme

1. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee (the Committee) of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (proposed Plan) implementation programme.

2. Background

Improving practice across all areas of resource management is the primary purpose of the implementation programme.

The proposed Plan identified 28 important actions (called ‘other methods’) that aim to help achieve the objectives of the Plan. Other methods can directly support the regulatory approach taken in a plan or may provide an alternative to regulation such as work programmes, provision of advice or supporting voluntary restoration initiatives.

Development and delivery of these methods or actions encourages behaviour change to meet iwi and community values, particularly for protection of regional water quality. Change depends not only on GWRC, but the regional community; iwi, landowners, town and city dwellers, industry groups and stakeholders as well as local government. Some of these actions are already underway and being delivered as part of GWRC’s operational programmes and use existing budget; the remainder will require new budget.

Some examples of other methods include:

- A method to assist district and city councils to comply with new stormwater network regulations aimed at improving urban water quality (M15)
- A method to assist landowners to comply with new regulation to protect and restore the region’s remaining wetlands (M20)

- Methods to restore water quality in Te Awarua o Porirua and Wairarapa Moana (M8,M9)
- A method to support mana whenua to measure their values through development of a Kaitiaki information strategy (M2)
- A method to assist councils to manage climate change related coastal hazards (M4).

Eventually, this programme will assist with the implementation with each Whaitua chapter of the plan. Operating in a world of environmental limits will mean significant behaviour change for all of our regional community.

2.1 Drivers of the Implementation Programme

There are four key drivers that focus work around the implementation of the Plan:

- To implement actions identified through the analysis of issues and options in the development of the Plan
- To progress priority actions that support mana whenua provisions in the proposed Plan
- To meet community expectation of engagement and support for changes required to practices by the proposed Plan
- To support existing operational programmes of work and the policy direction of the Regional Policy Statement 2013.

3. Project approach

Principles for implementation actions are drawn from those established by the Committee in development of the proposed Plan. They emphasise integrated thinking, working together, connection to place and an inclusive approach to decision making.

Many of the methods require broad based and sometimes diverse investment of individuals, groups and organisation from both within and outside GWRC. Those that are very complex and multi-dimensional will respond to a collaborative approach.

The programme is being delivered through a series of projects owned and led by departments from across the organisation in partnership with iwi and community stakeholders.

Environment Policy is providing support to project owners and looking for opportunities to achieve efficiencies and cost effectiveness across projects, particularly to ensure that engagement with stakeholder and community is consistent and sustainable for all parties.

Within GWRC more integrated practice across department activities brings greater consistency and clearer messages to the community and ultimately this will lead to better outcomes for GWRCs commitment to the delivery of the Plan.

Improving business as usual for resource users outside the organisation involves developing best practice approaches in consultation with stakeholders that then become standard practice.

The proposed Plan methods will be required to support catchment and sub-catchment scale water quality and quantity limits (set via the whitua process) and the non-regulatory management programmes that implement them. The delivery of priority actions will adapt to respond to the decisions of the whitua committees in the whitua implementation plans.

3.1 Budget

Some methods are already underway, incorporated into existing departmental work streams as “business as usual” with existing budget allocation. These may still require additional resource to meet new requirements, particularly the catchment and fresh water management unit management needs of whitua committees.

Other methods are new start-ups which will identify project budgets to resource their activities.

The next opportunity to bid for new budget is the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. Progress on any unfunded priority actions in the next two years would need to be funded by existing budget under the annual planning process.

We are currently undertaking a joint outcomes setting approach between the Environment Management and Catchment Management groups. This will help informing integrated Long Term Plan bids and assist with prioritisation.

4. Communication

The Committee is not making a decision to which the decision making requirements apply as this report is solely for receiving and noting.

5. Consideration of Climate Change

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide. Officers consider that climate change effects, mitigation or adaptation, are not significant in these matters.

6. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for the purpose of updating the Committee on the implementation programme for the Proposed Natural Resources Plan.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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