

**Te Pane Matua Taiao
Greater Wellington
Regional Council's**

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

for the Wellington Region



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

**What is in the
Plan that is
relevant to
your whaitua
process ?**



Goals in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan

- Provide a framework for Integrated Land and Water Management (Whaitua)
- Improve water quality and water use efficiency
- Identify values and places for protection
- Support economic wellbeing
- Provide opportunities for partnerships with communities and TAs
- A clear single plan and greater certainty to natural resources users



Whaitua committees are making RMA law

- The whaitua committees are working to write parts of the regional plan which means
 - Giving effect to the Regional Policy Statement
 - Giving effect to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
 - Implementing the RMA
 - Identifying programmes and investments that may shape investment under council plans,

So you are doing the local bits in a regional context

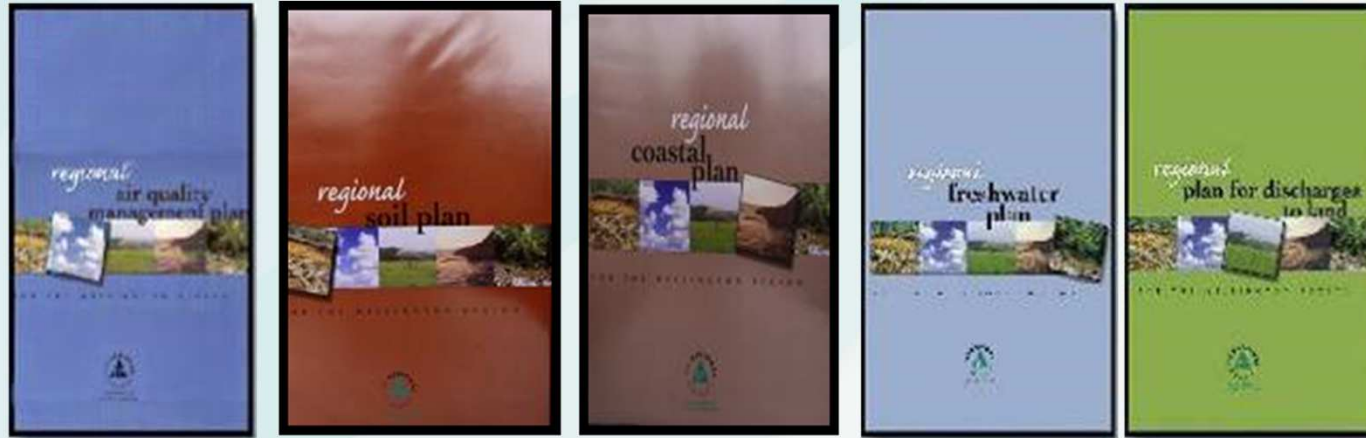


Improving water quality over time



Process for developing whaitua chapters

Current regional plans

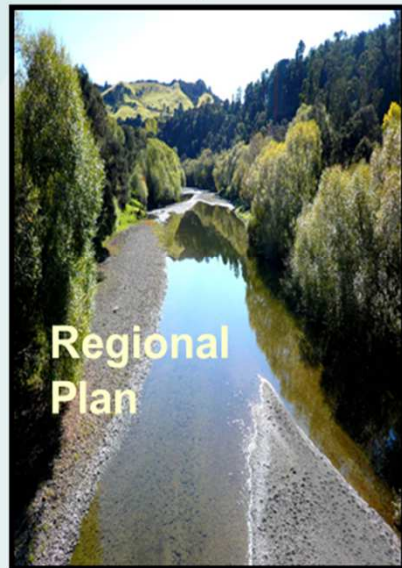


Process 1
Give effect to RPS
air, soil, hazards,
heritage, coastal,
land and water

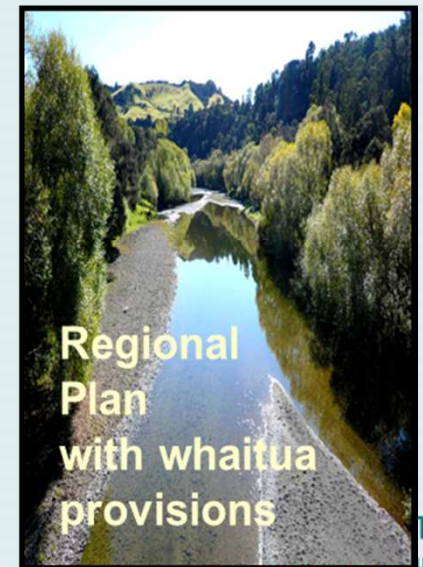


Process 2
Implement the NPS-FW
(catchment-based)
whaitua

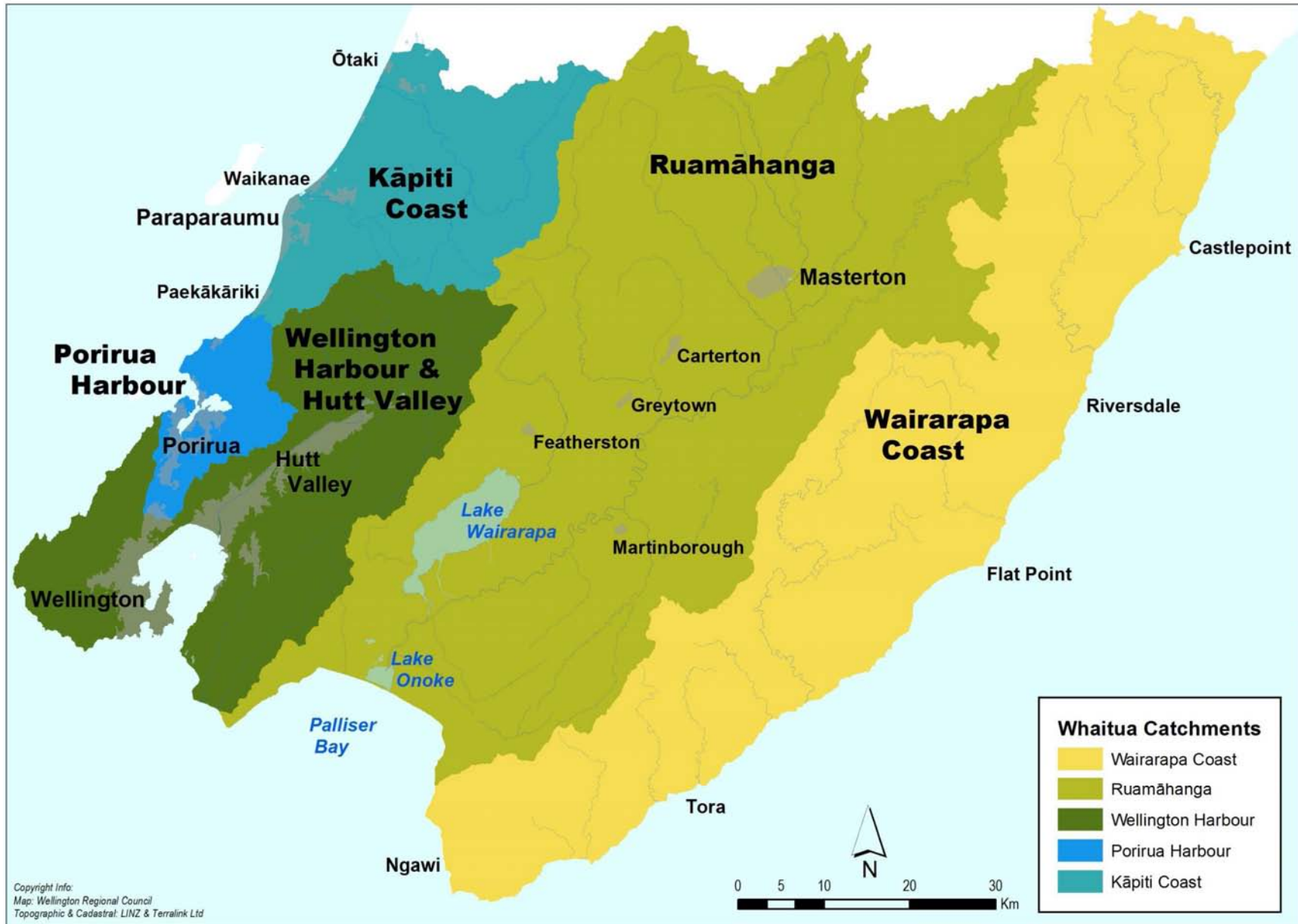
Second generation regional plan



- Ruamāhanga – Land and Water Management Chapter
- Wairarapa Coast Land and Water Management Chapter
- Porirua Harbour Land and Water Management Chapter
- Kāpiti Coast Land and Water Management Chapter
- Wellington/Hutt Valley Land and Water Management Chapter



Whaitua - Integrated Catchment Management



What's the difference?

'Water quality limits for freshwater set *for* the catchment *in partnership* with the community of the catchment'

- Catchment based water allocation and water quality management
- Equal focus on both urban and rural uses
- Changing the way we do things – combining rules and non regulatory actions
- Working in defined catchment areas - whaitua process



Water Quality – the big picture

- **Maintain or improve water quality**
 - Describe water quality that supports ecosystem health and mahinga kai, contact recreation and mana whenua use
 - Series of targeted non – statutory programmes to improve water quality in priority catchments
- **Water quality limits, targets and timeframes - focus of the whaitua process**
- **Achieving secondary and primary contact recreation, over time**
- **Approaches to improve water quality, over time**



Water Quality – Objectives

➤ **Objective O5**

- Freshwater bodies as a minimum are managed to safeguard ecosystem health and mahinga kai, provide for contact recreation and Māori customary use and health needs of people (freshwater)

➤ **Objective O23- water quality maintained or improved**

➤ **Objective O24**

- water contact recreation, secondary every where, primary contact in significant contact recreation water bodies

➤ **Objective O25 - aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai – maintain and improve over time where outcomes not met**

- Note whitua sections take precedence

Water quality for recreation

- **Secondary contact - everywhere to meet national bottom-line**
 - Of RSoE two sites will need improvement, over time – *other methods*
 - Priorities sites/river close to national bottom-line – whaitua
- **Primary contact – swimming in our rivers**
 - **Regional Policy Statement – significant rivers for swimming**
 - Minimum for primary contact recreation – Match the national approach
 - Priorities – two Significant Rivers will need improvement, overtime
- **Coast - Primary contact standards outside of the Port Area – priorities for improvement identified.**

Rural water quality

➤ No specific nutrient limits or leaching loads

- Limits through the whaitua process
- Integrated catchment management solutions a major focus

➤ Actions to maintain or improve water quality in rural area

- Riparian setbacks for cultivation and break-feeding
- Livestock excluded from most surface waters in intensively farmed areas – 2015-2022
- Control activities on steep slopes
- Priority catchment programmes to advance good management practice, linked to areas with poorer water quality



Urban water quality

Stormwater management

- **Two step process for community/council networks**
 - **1st - Controlled activity (2+5 years)**
 - Identify networks – work with storm water managers
 - Prepare Stormwater Management Plans – link with Whaitua
 - **2nd – Longer-term consents and Stormwater Management Plan**
 - Set objectives and priorities – Whaitua
 - Integrate asset management and planning processes
 - Longer-term plans to improve water quality



Urban water quality

Wastewater

- **Effects based approach to minimise adverse effects of wastewater – fresh and coastal**
- **The quality of existing discharges progressively improved and the quantity reduced - no time**
- **Existing discharges to fresh or coastal following rainfall progressively reduced - no timeframes**
- **New discharges to freshwater are non-complying**
- **New discharges to the coast are discretionary**
- **Engagement with Iwi - reasonable steps to reflect interests and values – NPS-FM**



Water allocation



Water allocation

- **Integrate surface and ground water resource management**
- **No claw backs**
 - Existing users retain their water
 - New users meet allocation limits
- **Transition period (4 years) to meet efficiency criteria**
- **Minimum flows effectively unchanged – whaitua**
- **whaitua also -**
 - Review allocation limits
 - explore options for transfer and for maximising efficient allocation and use



Where to from here?

➤ **Notification 31 July 2015:**

- 2 month submission period to end of September/October
- Summary of submissions and further submissions through to January/February 2016

➤ **Early-mid 2016**

- Pre-hearing meetings
- Officers s42A reports and circulation of evidence
- Hearings late 2016- early 2017





Questions...



Internal Contact details

Miranda Cross

Environment Policy Team leader

04 830 4204

Miranda.cross@gw.govt.nz

Lucy Harper

Environment Policy Team leader

06 826 1529

lucy.harper@gw.govt.nz

Jonathan Streat

Environment Policy Manager

04 830 4320

jonathan.streat@gw.govt.nz

