

For Information

WHAITUA IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – JUNE 2024

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. To update the Environment Committee on the progress to date in implementing received Whaitua Implementation Programmes and mana whenua statements (collectively referred to as WIPs) developed as part of Greater Wellington's Whaitua Programme.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. Three WIPs have been received by Council to support giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM):
 - a Ruamāhanga WIP, in August 2018 (Completion of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme – Report 18.289)
 - b Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP and Ngāti Toa Rangatira Statement, in April 2019 (Completion of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme – Report 19.121)
 - c Te Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao, in September 2021 (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Implementation Programme and Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao – Report 21.422).
3. The Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIPs gave effect to the NPS-FM 2014 (amended 2017), while Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara gave effect to the NPS-FM 2020.
4. This report is part of a six monthly reporting schedule, collating information on key working being led by Greater Wellington and partners to implement WIPs.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

5. The Whaitua Programme has had a significant impact on Greater Wellington, informing regulatory, governance and organisational transformation.
 - a Major regulatory changes have been undertaken through changes to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Natural Resources Plan (NRP) for the Wellington Region to give effect to Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIPs.

- b A key driver of the formation of Rōpū Taiao Environment Group was to be better able to respond and implement work developed with mana whenua and communities to achieve outcomes at a catchment scale. The newly established Catchment Function holds the responsibility for coordinating WIP implementation, which is carried out by a number of teams.
 - c Funding gaps were identified in WIPs, particularly in supporting partnership with mana whenua. This influenced the decision to have mana whenua on the Long Term Plan Committee for the first time, thus providing more transparency with investment and better examining how resourcing is assigned to achieve outcomes expressed by mana whenua.
 - d As the Whaitua Programme evolved from 2013, the approach has become more co-designed with mana whenua, with the establishment of Te Kāhui Taiao in Te Whanganui-a-Tara developing Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao (Te Mahere Wai). The most recent whaitua process in Kāpiti utilises a Tiriti House model, with equal representation of mana whenua on the Committee. This approach influenced the establishment of Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi Komiti.
6. The last Whaitua Implementation Update (Report 23.569) presented to this committee in November 2023 included an analysis of the recommendations in the WIPs assigned to categories (e.g., regulatory change) and a chart detailing progress in each category.
 7. This report differs to the previous formats. Changes since the standup of Rōpū Taiao Environment Group has meant the reassignment of WIP deliverables to new functions and managers as part of this transition. The new Catchment Function is coordinating the implementation of WIPs through a catchment planning approach, assessing Greater Wellington's work (and, over time, other groups and organisations' work) by catchment. This will provide for more certainty on progress to inform the next six-monthly update, and, importantly, the additional work required to achieve the objectives of the Whaitua processes.
 8. Notification of Plan Change 1 to the NRP in October 2023 implemented many of the recommendations in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua, Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Te Mahere Wai WIPs. Greater Wellington received 270 submissions on NRP Change 1, with around 11,000 individual submission points. The Policy Team is making arrangements for the commencement of the hearings process.
 9. The timing of plan changes to implement regulatory aspects of the Ruamāhanga WIP and other aspects in Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIPs is to be addressed by Council on 27 June 2024.
 10. Non-regulatory recommendations were already being considered by Environment Group leaders within the former structure. As this report shows, there are numerous activities underway directly linked to recommendations. In the past, our reporting was not effective in showing how Greater Wellington was responding to these directions. The development of the catchment planning systems will allow Greater Wellington to deliver a more integrated and place-based report of progress made, consistent with the original direction of Whaitua processes. This will allow

the reports to shift away from recommendation-by-recommendation reporting and instead provide a more outcomes-based picture of the results being delivered over time.

Whaitua Progress

Ruamāhanga Catchment

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa

11. Kaitiaki monitoring and partnership approaches to developing science and mātauranga are key elements of the Ruamāhanga WIP.
12. Working with the Cawthron Institute and GNS, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is leading a combination of scientific techniques and mātauranga Māori to gain a deeper understanding of Lake Wairarapa’s current water quality and biodiversity and how the Lake Wairarapa ecosystem has changed throughout history.

Rangitāne o Wairarapa

13. Greater Wellington and Rangitāne have held several hui in recent weeks devoted to a process for co-designing projects together. Hura Whenua has been presented to Greater Wellington as an approach to collaboration with Rangitāne whānau. Starting with work related to flood operations, the initiative aims to better plan our work around rivers from a te ao Māori perspective. The process offers us the opportunity of incorporating the mātauranga and aspirations of iwi in a forum that is jointly held.
14. Our investment in Hura Whenua will help us to make progress in the first set of recommendations in the WIP which centre the need for active partnerships with mana whenua.



Image 1: Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and GNS Science collecting sediment core samples in Wairarapa Moana as part of their Te Raranga Māramatanga me Ngā Tipu project

Greater Wellington

15. WIP recommendations relating to Wairarapa Moana are being advanced through our involvement in the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project, the Fish Passage Project, and through a review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (for more information about these projects, see Wairarapa Committee report 24.219).
16. Work on water efficiency, land use and water allocations (major themes of the Ruamāhanga WIP) will be conducted with territorial authorities and others through a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS). This strategy has extensive crossover with recommendations in the Ruamāhanga WIP and identifies the WIP as a key companion document. Since November 2023, an interim governance group has been established to advance a work programme under the WWRS (see report 24.216).
17. The SkyTEM aerial survey data is being cleaned and calibrated through the partnership with GNS. SkyTEM will support work on the groundwater components of the WIP. Current technical activities include planning potential calibration bore drilling and model design. Greater Wellington officers have also been meeting with the Wairarapa Water Users Society to discuss how SkyTEM information, consents, and allocations policy may interact.
18. Greater Wellington has embraced the catchment community approaches recommended in the Ruamāhanga WIP. The Wairarapa Catchment Collective has recently received funding from MPI and will be responsible for coordinating and supporting catchment community groups. Greater Wellington is working in a partnership with the Wairarapa Catchment Collective and Mountains to Sea Wellington. The strength of this partnership will ensure that collective time and resources are leveraged and coordinated. Many WIP recommendations can and are being progressed through local action plans.
19. As a priority catchment, investigations were undertaken in the Parkvale catchment between 2023-2024 to understand more about the interactions between surface and ground water flows and the water quality. Greater Wellington has been working with the Parkvale Catchment group to design the science investigation questions and learn more together about the interesting interactions of water that occur here. The Parkvale Catchment has high levels of E.coli and Nitrogen.

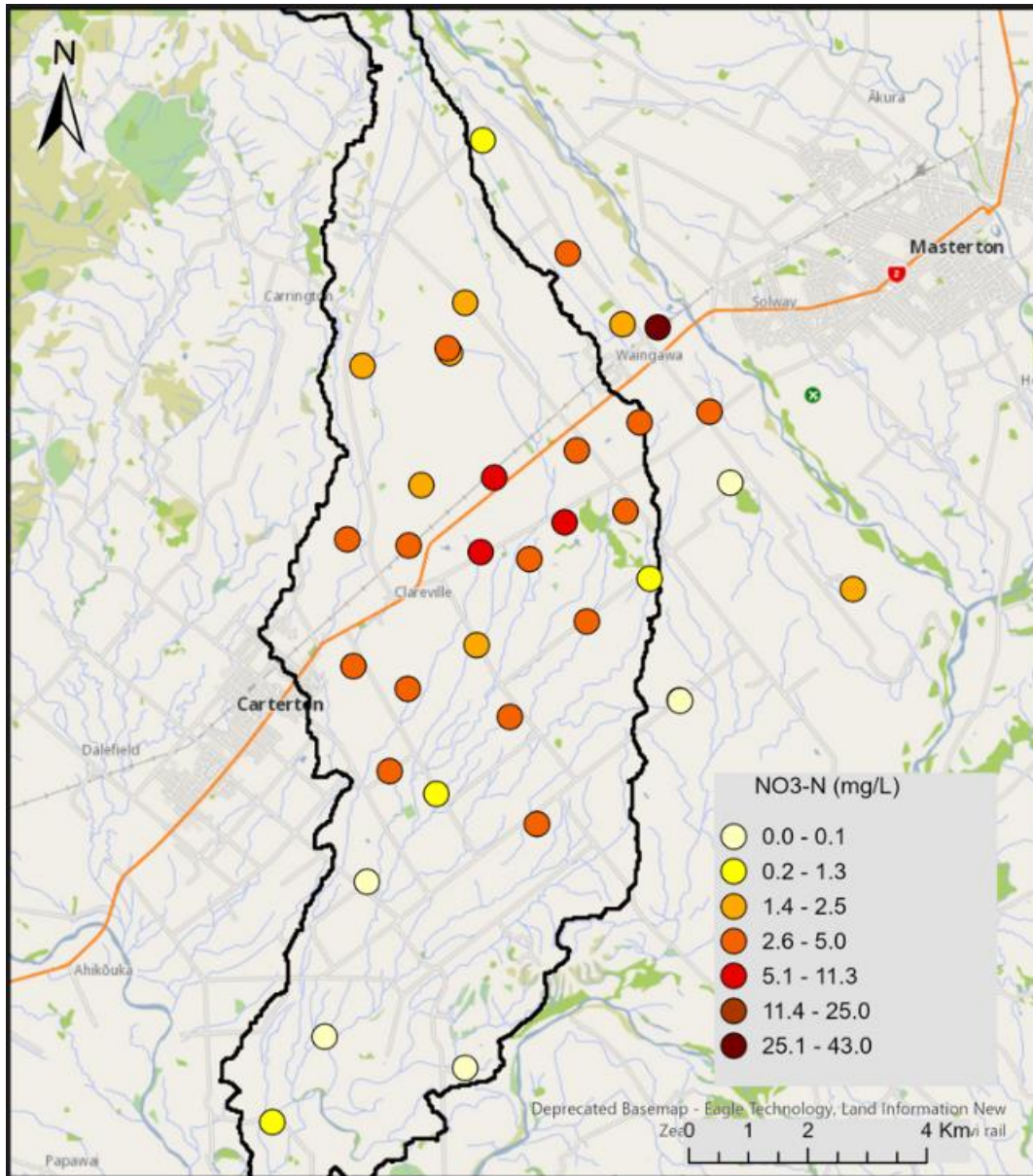


Image 2: Map showing median nitrate-nitrogen concentrations in the Parkvale Catchment from four rounds of sampling May 2023 – March 2024.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Catchment

Te Awarua o Porirua Whakaritenga – Porirua Harbour Accord.

20. The partner (Ngāti Toa, Greater Wellington, Porirua City Council (PCC), Wellington City Council (WCC), Wellington Water Limited) project team have a draft Accord document and Performance Monitoring Framework that is currently being presented to partner executive leadership teams for endorsement (refer to Te Awarua o Porirua Whakaritenga – Porirua Harbour Accord – Report 24.2360).

Greater Wellington

21. Greater Wellington Catchment and Delivery teams continue to work with PCC riparian programme to see how we better coordinate and engage with rural landowners in the catchment. This collaboration has also involved site visits to Porirua Stream to identify riparian planting locations (as below) a key activity in mitigating stream bank erosion.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Plantation Forestry Sector Engagement & Behaviour Change Project

22. This project is now well underway with Forme Consulting engaged for Greater Wellington to provide programme management services:

- There are two current harvest operations within the Porirua catchment; Greater Wellington's Battle Hill forest, and Whispering Pines forest.
- In terms of engagement, Forme Consulting has contacted forest/landowners representing 1,163ha of forests or 47% of the total forest areas within the Porirua catchment.
- Further to that they have visited 747ha of forest representing approximately 30% of the forests in the catchment.

Porirua City Council

23. Wastewater Retention Tank project in the Bothamley Park area is underway. This \$165 million project includes the retention tank, pumping station and 3.5 kilometres of new trunk sewer. Restoration and reinstatement of 5,600m² of cleared terrestrial vegetation, new planting of 1,600m² in previously open grass areas; reinstatement of approximately 120m² of disturbed wetland, and enhancement of an additional 240m² of existing wetland environment.

24. This project will eliminate wastewater overflow into Kenepuru Stream, which runs into Onepoto Arm.

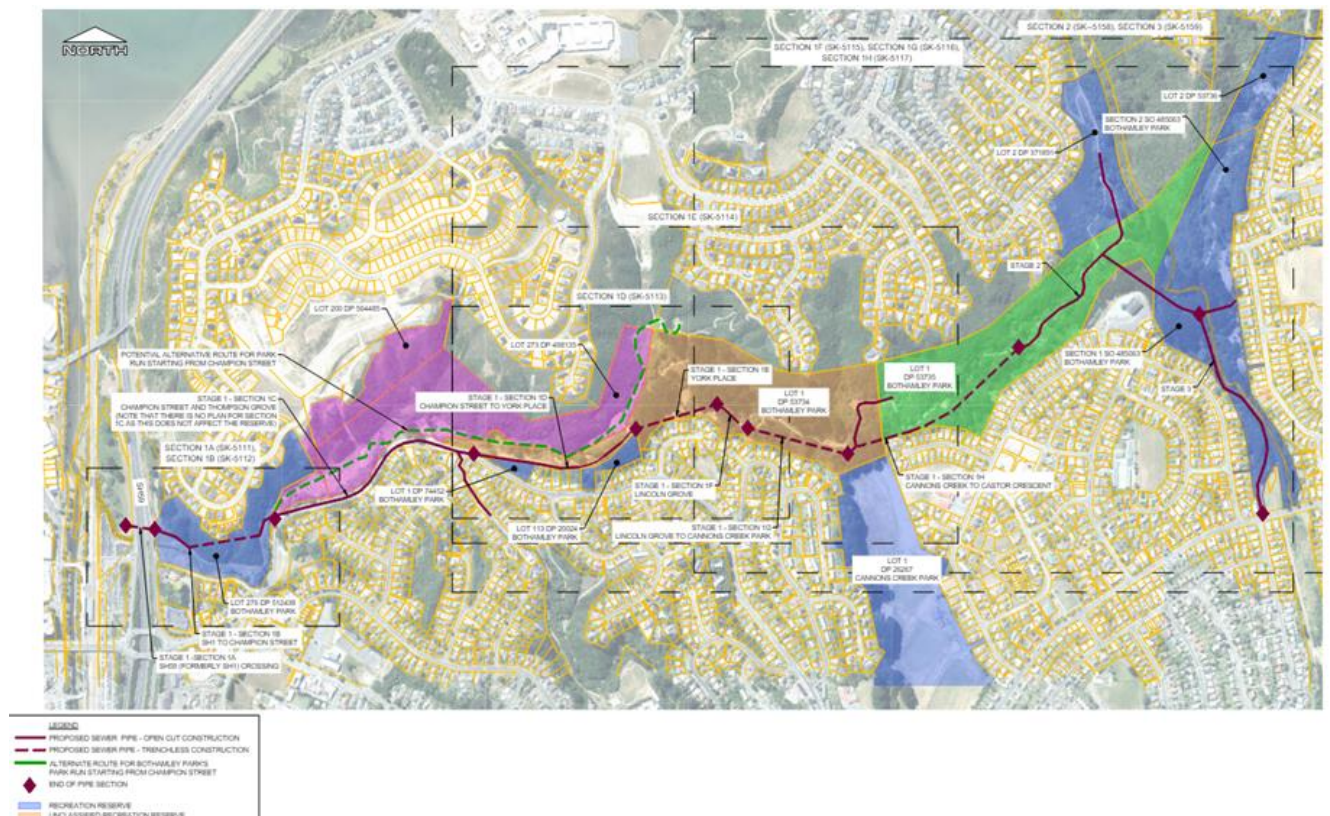


Image 3: Map illustrating Wastewater Retention project along Kenepuru Stream, Bothamley Park.

25. PCC continues to fund \$250,000 annually for its “Know your Pipes” programme with Wellington Water that addresses cross connection issues in private laterals, recently this has focused on Cannons Creek and Titahi Bay areas.

Ngāti Toa Rangatira

26. Ngāti Toa and ESR (Institute of Environmental Science and Research) have been partnering on harbour monitoring. From November 2021 to 2023 they have conducted four individual grab sampling events. Sediment and water samples were also collected along with 360 cockles at each site. The latest methodology has involved deploying passive sampling devices (far less labour intensive) at 6 traditional mahinga kai sites in the harbour. Results to date suggest there are sporadic detections of human faecal markers at all sites across the three sampling events since August 2023. The highest levels are recorded at Tāngare, followed by Onepoto and Pāremata.
27. Ngāti Toa has also initiated (the first was April 2024) a monthly cultural health monitoring hui for Te Awarua o Porirua, which Greater Wellington and others are attending.



Images 4 and 5: Greater Wellington staff accompanying ESR (Russleigh Parai, Maori Impact Team, Kaupapa Māori Scientist) at low tide, to retrieve passive samplers in Onepoto Arm, off Pāremata.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Catchment

Kaiwharawhara inanga spawning enhancement project

28. Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara/Sanctuary to Sea are coordinating this project, with the support of Greater Wellington and 18 other contributing organisations, to improve the spawning habitat in the only sub-catchment in Wellington that supports inanga spawning. Early 2024 engagement with Greater Wellington has been on-site to determine consenting pathways for the methods involved. Work is beginning in June 2024, and WCC are providing 150 plants for planting on the stream banks in July 2024.

29. Kaiwharawhara Awa and its estuarine habitat is a high-priority catchment identified during the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara process. Te Mahere Wai recommends Te Manga o Kaiwharawhara as one of three prioritised in this catchment (along with Wainuiomata and Korokoro).



Image 6: Īnanga eggs found at Kaiwharawhara in February 2024. Photo courtesy of Nate Rigler



Image 7: Peter Reiman, former chair Trelissick Park group, Abbey Huriwai and Alice Jenkins, Mountains to Sea at the Īnanga spawning site. Photo courtesy of Nate Rigler

Whaitua Te Whanganui Reference Group

30. The Reference Group has met twice since the last report with a strong interest in developments with NRP Plan Chang 1 (PC1), which implements a large number of their recommendations. The group was pleased to hear of Greater Wellington's intentions to proceed PC1 to the hearing stage. Most of the members will be involved in the hearings, whether representing their respective organisations or as individuals.
31. The Reference Group next meeting is to be held in June 2024.

Te Hononga o te Ika – Wellington Catchments Collective

32. Te Hononga is a network of community catchment groups with a strong freshwater focus based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Te Awarua-o-Porirua, and Kāpiti Coast. The shared purpose of 45 constituent groups is to:
 - a Collectivise and support catchment groups in the wider Wellington area.
 - b Build effective relationships to improve knowledge sharing, submission building and awareness of emerging issues.
 - c Provide a forum where council, agencies and other parties can engage with multiple groups at one time.
 - d Encourage better structures and processes with councils and agencies to expand community input into catchment issues.
33. Officers have had initial discussions with the group to understand its goals for working with Greater Wellington and potential involvement in catchment planning. This helps Greater Wellington implement the mana tangata vision and recommendations in the WIP and Te Mahere Wai.

Wellington Water

34. Officers meet regularly with staff at Wellington Water Ltd on Whaitua-related mahi, particularly those related to three waters infrastructure upgrades needed to meet water quality objectives in the WIP and Te Mahere Wai.
35. Recent discussions have been on aligning our respective catchment planning approaches. Wellington Water is taking a sub-catchment approach to its stormwater and wastewater network improvements. A study into what is required to deliver water quality improvements in Black Creek, Wainuiomata, has been undertaken, and a report is due soon.

Wellington City Council

36. WCC has recently assigned an officer to provide an update on relevant recommendations from the WIP and Te Mahere Wai, and it is expected that this will be included in the November 2024 progress report.
37. *'Fix our water infrastructure and improve the health of waterways'* has been identified as a focus priority for WCC's LTP 2024-34, with options for increased investment in the three waters network a key proposal for consultation.

Hutt City Council

38. Hutt City Council (HCC) provided a comprehensive report on their Whaitua implementation in the update last November, and HCC councillors regularly participate on the Whaitua Reference Group. An early draft of HCC's spatial plan seen by Greater Wellington officers, makes reference to the influence of the WIP and Te Mahere Wai, in particular with respect to three waters.

Upper Hutt City Council

39. Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) has identified investment in three waters infrastructure as a priority in their LTP 2024-34, with 40% of the total spend proposed to go on water services infrastructure over the next 10 years. To reduce the rate of water demand and water leakage, the LTP increases investment in pressure-reducing valves and funds the installation of universal residential water meters (including an implementation business case in Year 1).
40. UHCC will be providing an update on WIP implementation in the November 2024 progress report.

Whaitua Kāpiti

41. The Whaitua Kāpiti process is due to be completed in June 2024. Once the WIP is received by Council (in August 2024), its implementation will be tracked and presented to the Environment Committee through this reporting process.

Whaitua Wairarapa Coast

42. The Wairarapa Coast Whaitua was scheduled to begin in the second half of 2023 with the purpose of giving effect to the NPS-FM by the December 2024 deadline. The Government extended the December 2024 deadline to December 2027. Implications of this new timeframe and incoming changes to the NPS-FM are currently being considered.
43. The approach for the Wairarapa Coast Whaitua will be determined with mana whenua and community and this discussion has not begun in earnest yet, although a number of early connections have occurred.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

44. There are no direct financial implications from this report.
45. Regulatory components of the WIPs will continue to enter into the existing Regional Policy Statement/Natural Resources Plan Change programme, as funded. Non-regulatory elements will continue to be prioritised and resourced through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes and internal change control management considerations as part of wider funding and prioritisation requirements.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

44. This report records the ways in which Greater Wellington is giving effect to the direction for freshwater management that has been given by mana whenua through the WIPs, including the Ngāti Toa Statement and Te Mahere Wai o te Kahui Taiao.
45. Development of the WIPs has included substantial input from mana whenua over many years. Mana whenua led the development of the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Statement and Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao.
46. The Whaitua programme created space for mana whenua to reiterate their obligations as kaitiaki and recognises a need for Greater Wellington to create space to enable mana whenua the opportunity to determine their rangatiratanga. Partnership with mana whenua remains paramount for the organisation and is being actively pursued in a number of forums, for example the Porirua Harbour Accord.
47. As we move away from engagement with mana whenua on Whaitua implementation towards a space where we partner, the role of mana whenua and their solutions will become clearer. This means moving towards a high trust partnership model with resourcing attached.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

48. These progress reports will be published on the Greater Wellington website.
49. The next progress report will be provided in November 2024.
50. The Catchment function will continue to coordinate WIP reporting across Rōpū Taiao Environment Group through internal business planning and prioritisation processes, as well as through partnership externally.

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Phill Barker – Senior Catchment Advisor, Te Whanganui-a-tara Tim Sharp – Catchment Manager, Te Whanganui-a-tara Jimmy Young – Catchment Manager, Te Awarua-o-Porirua Pete Huggins – Catchment Manager, Ruamāhanga
Approvers	Nicola Patrick – Director, Catchment Lian Butcher – Group Manager, Environment

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

The Environment Committee has a responsibility to review periodically the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council's environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

Implementing WIPs is a core activity in the Long Term Plan for Rōpū Taiao Environment Group.

Internal consultation

This report has been led by Catchment and reviewed by Te Hunga Whiriwhiri and Strategy, Policy and Regulation.

Nearly all business units in Rōpū Taiao Environment Group and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri have contributed to the report as implementation requires work from across the groups.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There is significant environmental, reputational and legal risk if the WIPs not implemented. Environmental risks include that water quality and biodiversity will continue to decline. Reputational risk includes that our partners, stakeholders and communities consider that implementation has not been given sufficient priority. Whaitua committees and mana whenua have invested significant time and knowledge to the development of WIPs and companion mana whenua documents. There is a legal risk to Council if the statutory obligations of the NPS-FM 2020 are not met.