



Selection of rivers and lakes with significant amenity and recreational values

Quality for Life



greater WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL | Environment





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1. The need to identify rivers and lakes

The Regional Policy Statement provides direction for city and district councils and the Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on the management of the natural and physical resources of the Wellington region. Objective 12 is:

The quantity and quality of fresh water:

- a) *meet the range of uses and values for which water is required;*
- b) *safeguard the life-supporting capacity of water bodies; and*
- c) *meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.*

Amenity values, including recreation are an important component of this objective, particularly as Part 2 of the Resource Management Act (the Act) requires regional councils to have particular regard to amenity values, including recreational attributes, when preparing regional policy statements.

Policy 17 of the proposed Regional Policy Statement is:

Regional plans shall include policies and rules that protect

...

- (a) *the significant amenity and recreational values associated with the rivers and lakes listed in Appendix 1.*

And Policy 42 is:

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or replacement to a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to

...

- (d) *protecting the significant amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those listed in Appendix 1.*

This report provides the basis for selecting rivers and lakes with significant amenity and recreational values identified in Appendix 1, Table 15, of the proposed Regional Policy Statement using a survey of recreational users. The last assessments of rivers and lakes of the region used for recreation, and the extent of that recreational use, was for the Wellington Regional Council's first regional policy statement, which was made operative in 1995, and for the Regional Freshwater Plan, which was made operative in 1999. The results of these assessments are listed in Appendix 1, and have also been considered in this assessment of rivers and lakes with significant amenity and recreation values.

2. The survey

To find out what water bodies are being used in the community today, and to what extent, Greater Wellington staff prepared a survey and sent it around the region in November 2007. The purpose of the new survey was to prepare a record of the sort of uses recreational organisations made of particular rivers and lakes, the frequency and extent of the use, the sort of environmental conditions that best suited their activity and the sort of conditions not suitable for their activity. Respondents were also asked to comment on other kinds of recreational uses they had observed in and around the water body.

The recreational groups were identified from checking Greater Wellington's contacts database, searching the internet, and asking Greater Wellington staff. The survey was drafted by Ryan Medlin based on the survey prepared by Conrad Pharazyn in 1995 (for the Regional Freshwater Plan). The survey for this report was reviewed by Kirsten Forsyth and tested on staff at Greater Wellington. A copy is attached in Appendix 2.

The survey was sent to 106 people in organisations with interests in fishing, canoeing, tramping, hunting, as well as environmental groups like Forest and Bird. A \$1.00 scratch and win lottery ticket was sent with each letter as a way of thanking them for completing the survey. Surveys were also sent by email to 93 individuals at those same organisations who had supplied an email address, and to 23 additional people who were not on the mailing list. Thirteen of these were returned as undeliverable.

3. The results of the survey

By 18 January 2008, 24 people had responded to the survey. Four said that rivers were not part of their recreational use; one said that their group used all rivers in the region, and one responded about the Manawatu estuary which is not in the Wellington region. The results of the remaining 17 respondents along with information about existing lists in the operative Regional Policy Statement (1995) and the Regional Freshwater Plan (1999) were used to compile Table 15 in the draft Regional Policy Statement released for public consultation in February 2008.

Four more surveys were received after release of the draft. The information from all surveys was compiled in an excel spreadsheet, which has been used in the preparation of this report.

3.1 Responding organisations and their members

Respondents with more than 50 members were the Wellington Fish and Game Council, forest and bird branches, tramping clubs, canoe clubs, and the deerstalking association. These groups all reported extensive use of many rivers around the region.

Some groups only had a few members, or had little recreational use of rivers. These were the athletics and harrier groups, the rifle association and the pony club.

Some rivers, like the Hutt and Ruamahanga rivers were used by many groups, suggesting that hundreds of people associated with clubs and formal groups could be using the river on any day.

Surveying recreational groups was considered to provide a representation as to the use of rivers and lakes and their environments by the community. There will be a number of people using lakes and rivers and their environments who are not represented by clubs and groups but it was not feasible to reach all those who use rivers and lakes directly.

3.2 Aspects of the environment affecting its recreational and amenity values

Respondents were asked to check which of the listed qualities of the water body they valued for their use. The listed qualities were: good water quality, high water flows, low water flows, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, good vehicle security, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, toilet facilities, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, not too challenging environment, good water cress, and picnic facilities.

Some additional qualities mentioned by some respondents were: presence of rapids, interesting and varied environment, challenging fishing, good mountain biking tracks, back country huts and feeling of remoteness.

Respondents were also asked about the factors that made the water body unsuitable for their recreational or amenity use. The listed factors were: poor water quality, high water flow, low water flow, deep water, shallow water, poor scenery, far from public transport, poor public access, poor vehicle access, popular area, poor vehicle security, poor walking tracks, too far from home, not safe for kids, too much rubbish and litter, over developed, absence of trout, absence of native fish, absence of trees and other plants, absence of native plants and bush, absence of birds, feeling of natural environment, poor views, lack of open space, too much open space, challenging environment, not too challenging environment, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment, lack of toilet facilities.

Additional factors mentioned by some respondents that affected their enjoyment of the river environment were: aquatic plants catch on boats, river works, toxic algal blooms, exotic forestry activity including landscape values devastated after forestry, encroachment of gorse on river, increasing vehicle use of river beds, and concern about water quality after 1080 operations.

A breakdown of the factors that respondents rated as making the water body suitable or unsuitable for their own recreational use is given in Appendix 4. Although this mainly reflects the number of tables filled out by all respondents, and not the overall value of those factors if all of their members were surveyed, it is interesting to see that the most commonly cited factors affecting a water

body's suitability were the quality of the surrounding environment - attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, being close to home, feeling of a natural environment, and having open space. While good water quality was valued, other instream qualities tended to rate less well.

3.3 What makes the recreational or amenity value significant?

The criteria to determine whether or not a river or lake is significant for its amenity value or recreational uses in the proposed Regional Policy Statement were:

- The river or lake is used for an activity by people from throughout the region or beyond
- The river or lake is regarded as especially valuable for a particular activity because of the quality of the opportunity and experience it affords
- The river or lake is used for trout fishing on 100 or more angler days a year.

These criteria for significance were also used in the survey by Pharazyn in 1995 during preparation of the Regional Freshwater Plan and the findings of the earlier survey were also relevant to the current assessment.

Responses from the survey provided data for the first two bullet points. Questions in the survey aimed to answer the first point were: number of people in their group, frequency of use, and whether they are mainly local or from further away. The value the respondents place on the resource was gauged by number of attributes that were ticked as making the water body suitable for their activity, compared with the number of attributes that made the water body unsuitable.

Trout fishing angler days were supplied by Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4 Rivers lakes and wetlands identified

Rivers and lakes identified as having recreational or amenity values by survey respondents are described in section 3.4.1 to 3.4.28, along with comments on the kind of use, the attributes for which the water body is valued and whether or not the river or lake is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

3.4.1 Lake Waitawa

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Kayaking	✓	✓

Comments: On average, 482 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. Lake Waitawa is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: coarse fishing water, peaceful.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.2 Otaki River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming	✓	
Kayaking	✓	
Canoeing	✓	
Walking	✓	

Comments: The Otaki River above the Otaki forks lies within the Tararua Forest Park and is used year-round by the regional community for tramping and hunting. The road-end camping ground at Otaki forks is a popular regional facility. The river is used for river floats and river crossing training by trampers. The Otaki gorge is a major regional centre for rafting and kayaking. It is used year-round for these activities. Respondents to this survey valued the Pots picnic and swimming area, and noted that Blue-slip to Pots and higher reaches are used for kayaking. The lower Otaki is used year-round for rafting and kayaking. Fishing occurs mainly downstream of the SH1 bridge. The mouth is an important whitebaiting area. Average angler use from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons was 522 angler days.

The Otaki River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, high water flows, deep water, attractive scenery, good vehicle access, popular area, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, challenging environment, feeling of remoteness, and presence of rapids.

Attributes that can make the river unsuitable: low water flow, shallow water, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment, unstable bed.

Respondents: Hutt Valley Canoe Club, Brian Stewart, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.3 Waikanae River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	

Comments: Hills in the Waikanae catchment are used for year-round tramping. The river floodway is a popular area for walking, running, trail biking. The lower reaches below Otaihanga are a popular summer recreation area for walking, swimming and picnicking. Boating mainly takes place below Otaihanga. This section of the Waikanae River is a valuable trout fishery, providing a high quality experience and good fish. The estuary is an important whitebaiting area. Average angler use from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons was 586 angler days.

The Waikanae River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, scenic, good access

Attributes that make the river unsuitable: water abstraction, seriously adverse river works.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council

3.4.4 Whitby lakes

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Radio controlled boats	✓	

Comment: The Whitby Lakes are used locally for coarse fishing and for sailing radio controlled yachts up to two times per month. The Whitby lakes are not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good public access, good vehicle access, good vehicle security, close to home, toilet facilities, good views, coarse fishing water.

Attributes that can make the water body unsuitable: aquatic plants catch on boats and slow them down.

Respondents Wellington radio yacht club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.5 Horokiri Stream

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Walking		✓
Running	✓	
Biking		✓

Comments: A tributary of the Horokiri Stream runs through Battle Hill Farm Forest Park where the shallow stream is used for cross country events. The Horokiri Stream is not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: shallow water, attractive scenery, good vehicle access, popular area, good walking tracks, safe area for kids, toilet facilities, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, and picnic facilities.

Attributes that make the river unsuitable: far from public transport.

Respondents: Olympic Harriers.

3.4.6 Hutt River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	✓
Swimming		✓
Kayaking	✓	✓
Tubing and rafting		✓
Power boating, jet skiing		✓
Radio controlled boats	✓	
Picnicking		✓
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	✓
Running	✓	
Biking		✓
Trail biking		✓
Horse riding	✓	
Four-wheel driving		✓

Comments: Some respondents filled out the table for the Hutt River including its tributaries. Others filled out separate tables for specific tributaries. These activities could apply to both the main Hutt River, and its tributaries.

The Hutt River is an extremely popular and accessible resource used daily by locals. The main river as far down as Silverstream is valued for its high flows and good water quality. It is used for white water sports often holding regional events. Hunters and trampers use the upper reaches to access high quality mountain recreation opportunities. The scenic quality of the river corridor is a valuable part of the experience of driving up the valley. Popular swimming holes at Taita Rocks and Belmont. Kahawai are caught from the Wainoni Street bridge and the banks of the lower estuary.

The lower reaches are regularly used by motorised water sport organisations where the river is often and consistently deeper wider with vehicle access. Swimmers, Harrier clubs/runners, dog walkers and horse riders use the well formed and accessible tracks on at least one side of the river along its entirety with many vehicle access points and parking areas.

Average angler use from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons was 13,060 angler days.

The Hutt River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, high water flows, deep water, attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, toilet facilities, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of trees and other plants, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, not too challenging environment, picnic facilities, presence of rapids, interesting and varied environment.

Attributes that can make the river unsuitable: poor water quality especially during summer, toxic algal blooms, high water flow, low water flow, shallow water, poor scenery, poor vehicle access, poor vehicle security, poor walking tracks, too much rubbish, logs and shopping trolleys etc., absence of trout, absence of native fish, absence of trees and other plants, absence of native plants and bush, absence of birds, absence of native birds, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment.

Comments made on surveys: Maintenance of adequate flows is critical for kayaking and rafting including maintaining the quality of the water. Signage for algae such as Didymo and 1080 by-kill threats. Contamination caused from upstream activities i.e. dairy farm north of Pakuratahi and 1080 operations. Inappropriate motorised activity on the tracks provided for foot and cycle use are a safety concern. The public are concerned with the gravel extractions and flood protection works. There is currently very little public understanding of these works and the effect they have on the environment and river species. Toxic algal blooms and low flows are an issue for fishers.

Respondents: Hutt Valley radio controlled yacht club, Wellington model power boat club, Aurora harrier club, Hutt Valley canoe club, Hutt Valley track and field club, Hutt Valley angling club, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Te

Marua pony club, Lower Hutt branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.7 Pakuratahi River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Picnicking		✓
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	

Comments: Recreation is a major land use in the Pakuratahi catchment. The lower Pakuratahi runs through Kaitoke Regional Park. The Rimutaka incline recreation area occupies the valley of the mid-Pakuratahi. The upper Pakuratahi is used for hunting. On average, 55.5 angler days were recorded for the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Pakuratahi River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009)

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, toilet facilities, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of trees and other plants, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, not too challenging environment, picnic facilities, presence of rapids, interesting and varied environment.

Attributes that make the river unsuitable: poor vehicle security Kaitoke Road end.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council, Deerstalkers Association.

3.4.8 Akatarawa River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Walking		✓
Running		✓
Biking	✓	
Trail biking		✓
Horse riding		✓
Four-wheel driving		✓

Comments: The Akatarawa Valley is a scenic route. The river is accessed at a number of locations along its length. It is used year-round for canoeing and kayaking. It is valued for its good winter flows, high water quality and accessibility. Akatarawa west is an important mountain biking and trail riding area. Also popular for back country walking, camping and fishing. It is used Oct-April for trout fishing. On average, 190.5 angler days were recorded for the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Akatarawa River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, close to home, presence of trout, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, challenging environment, and feeling of remoteness.

Attributes that can make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, low water flow, shallow water, poor public access, absence of trout, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment, exotic forestry activity.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council, the Kennett Brothers.

3.4.9 Wainuiomata River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Picnicking		✓
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	
Horse riding		✓

Comments: Between the Wainuiomata water works and the Coast Road Bridge, the land adjoining the Wainuiomata River has been developed for recreation. Tracks looping the river and catchments have been established with ongoing development and swimming holes located in several areas with good access. The catchment above the waterworks contains the last extensive area of lowland podocarp forest remaining in Hutt City. Public access to this area is restricted at present. The forest has considerable potential for recreational development. The lower Wainuiomata is a valuable trout fishery. On average, 13,060 angler days were recorded for the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Wainuiomata River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, good vehicle security, good walking tracks, close to home, toilet facilities, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, high quality fishing, peaceful, and back country huts.

Attributes that make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, low water flow, shallow water, absence of trout, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment.

Respondents: Hutt Valley Angling Club, Deerstalkers Association, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.10 Orongorongo River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Picnicking		✓
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	

Comments: The Orongorongo River lies partly within the Rimutaka Forest Park. It provides a major route into the park and is used by day walkers, overnight trampers and hunters. On average, 20 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. The Orongorongo River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, good vehicle security, good walking tracks, toilet facilities, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural

environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, feeling of remoteness, and back country huts.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: restricted access to headwaters, poor water quality, high water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access (to road end or entry point), poor vehicle security (at road end or entry point), too much rubbish and litter, over developed (including hydrostructures and wind turbines), absence of native plants and bush.

Respondents: Deerstalkers Association, Wellington Fish and Game Council, and Hutt Valley Tramping Club.

3.4.11 Gollans Stream

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	

Comments: Used year round for tramping and walking, and in Oct-April for trout fishing. The upper part is in East Harbour Regional Park. It is a forested catchment and is largely untracked. It provides extensive bush country walking and tramping opportunities.

The upper part of Gollans Stream, including Butterfly Creek, is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good walking tracks, presence of native plants and bush, feeling of natural environment, open space, good views.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access (to road end or entry point), poor vehicle security (at road end or entry point), too much rubbish and litter, over developed (including hydrostructures and wind turbines), absence of native plants and bush.

Respondents: Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Lower Hutt Branch Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

3.4.12 Cameron Creek

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	

Comments: Cameron Creek is used in association with Lake Kohangapiripiri. It is not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, good public access, popular area, good walking tracks, safe area for kids, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, not too challenging environment.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: far from public transport, poor vehicle security, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment, lack of toilet facilities.

Respondents: Lower Hutt Branch Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

3.4.13 Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera lakes

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	

Comments: Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera lakes, also known as Pencarrow Lakes, are used year round for walking and mountain bike riding.

The Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera lakes are included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good walking tracks, presence of native plants and bush, feeling of natural environment, open space, good views.

Attributes that would make the water body unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access, poor vehicle security, too much rubbish and litter, over developed.

Respondents: Lower Hutt Branch Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Hutt Valley Tramping Club.

3.4.14 Butterfly Creek

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	
Running	✓	
Biking		✓

Comments: Butterfly Creek is used for camping and swimming.

Butterfly Creek and the upper part of Gollans Stream (see section 3.4.10) is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, popular area, good vehicle security, good walking tracks, safe area for kids, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, not too challenging environment.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access, poor vehicle security, too much rubbish and litter, over developed.

Respondents: Aurora Harrier Club, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Lower Hutt Branch Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

3.4.15 Korokoro Stream

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	
Biking		✓

Comments: Korokoro Stream is a popular walking and biking area. The Korokoro Stream is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, not too challenging environment.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access, poor vehicle security, popular area, lack of toilet facilities, poor vehicle security, too much rubbish and litter, over developed, lack of cleaning facilities for equipment.

Respondents: Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Lower Hutt Branch Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

3.4.16 Khandallah Stream

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Walking	✓	
Running	✓	

Comments: The Khandallah Stream is not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, shallow water, safe for kids.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: not stated.

Respondents: Onslow amateur athletics club.

3.4.17 Karori Stream

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Kayaking		✓
Picnicking		✓
Walking		✓
Running		✓
Biking	✓	

Comments: The Karori Stream provides access to the south coast from South Karori. It is used by walkers and mountain bikers. The Karori Stream is not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, close to home, presence of native fish, presence of native plants and bush, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, picnic facilities, good mountain biking tracks.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, too much rubbish and litter, over developed.

Respondents: Kennett Brothers.

3.4.18 Makara and Ohariu Streams

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Running	✓	
Horse riding		✓
Four-wheel driving		✓

Comments: The Makara estuary is an attractive wildlife area. It is also suitable for beginner canoeists. Some fishing use occurs locally and, on average, 84.5 angler days were recorded for the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. The Makara and Ohariu rivers are not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, low water flows, shallow water, attractive scenery, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, challenging fishing, variety.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, far from public transport, poor public access, catchment development.

Respondents: Olympic Harriers, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.19 Ruamahanga River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Kayaking	✓	✓
Canoeing	✓	✓
Tubing and rafting	✓	
Power boating, jet skiing		✓
Picnicking		✓
Duck shooting	✓	
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	✓

Comments: Like the Hutt River, some respondents wrote about the Ruamahanga when their activities were also carried out in some of the tributaries. The upper Ruamahanga lies within the Tararua Forest Park and is used by the regional population for wilderness recreation. The SH2-Waingawa section and mid Ruamahanga is used for fishing and duck shooting, rabbit and

possum hunting, and fishing. Some use is for kayaking and canoeing. The lower Ruamahanga is used for fishing and duck shooting. Passive activities such as picnicking and sightseeing are constrained by the limited access throughout most of the Ruamahanga. On average, 7148 angler days were recorded for the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Ruamahanga River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, high water flows, low water flows, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, toilet facilities (in some places), secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, not too challenging environment, picnic facilities, very good fishing, very good access, peaceful, variety of opportunity for fishing.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, high water flow, low water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access (at road end or entry point), poor vehicle security (at road end or entry point), too much rubbish and litter, over developed, absence of native plants and bush, lack of cleaning facilities for equipment, lack of toilet facilities, erosion, poor flood control, very poor water quality.

Respondents: Deerstalkers Association, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Masterton Tramping Club, Wairarapa Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Kahutara canoes, Wairarapa Fish and Game Association, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.20 Kourarau Dam

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming	✓	
Kayaking	✓	✓
Tubing and rafting	✓	
Picnicking		✓

Comments: On average, 730 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. The Kourarau Dam is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, low water flows, deep water, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, good vehicle security, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, not too

challenging environment, challenging for fishing, variety of opportunity, peaceful.

Attributes that make the water body unsuitable: poor water quality, shallow water, absence of trees and other plants, absence of native plants and bush, not too challenging environment, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment, lack of toilet facilities, fish getting smaller.

Respondents: Wairarapa Fish and Game Association, Wairarapa Outdoor Pursuits, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.21 Henley Lake

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Radio controlled boats	✓	
Walking	✓	

Comments: Henley Lake is used for boating and canoeing. It is used for outdoor education by schools from throughout the region. On average, 1,266.5 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. Henley Lake is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: attractive scenery, close to public transport, good public access, good vehicle access, popular area, good vehicle security, good walking tracks, close to home, safe area for kids, toilet facilities, good views, open space, not too challenging environment, and picnic facilities.

Attributes that make the water body unsuitable: poor water quality, low water flow, deep water, shallow water, not safe for kids, too much rubbish and litter, not too challenging environment, lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment, too many ducks, the water in this lake stinks.

Respondents: Wairarapa Orienteering Club, Wairarapa Radio Yacht and Power Boat Club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.22 Kopuaranga River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	

Comments: On average, 520.5 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. The Kopuaranga River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: challenging fishing, variety of opportunity, peaceful.

Attributes that can make the river unsuitable: poor water quality, excessive water abstraction.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.23 Waipoua River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Kayaking	✓	
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	
Running	✓	
Biking		✓
Picnicking		✓

Comments: The Waipoua River is a valued fishing river. On average, 198 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. The Waipoua River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, close to home, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, variety of opportunity, and peaceful.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: not stated in responses.

Respondents: Wairarapa Orienteering Club, Deerstalkers Association, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.24 Waingawa River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Kayaking	✓	
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	
Picnicking		✓

Comments: Used year round for tramping. The river is used for river floats, river crossing training. The upper Waingawa lies within the Tararua Forest Park and is used by the regional population for wilderness recreation. Hunting on river includes rabbits, possums and ducks. The main limitation on water sports on the middle section is its shallow depth. For this reason it is used for tubing rather than canoeing or rafting. Some canoeing and kayaking does take place when flows permit. Road end to Kaituna is rated grade III rafting water. On average, 284.5 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Waingawa River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, good walking tracks, close to home, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: poor vehicle security.

Respondents: Deerstalkers Association, Hutt Valley Canoe club, Hutt Valley Tramping club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.25 Waiohine River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Kayaking	✓	
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	
Picnicking		✓

Comments: The upper Waiohine lies within the Tararua Forest Park. It is used by the regional population for wilderness recreation. The gorge is accessible by road at both ends. It is popular for river floating and tubing and is used for outdoor education. Also year round for canoeing and kayaking. The area by SH1 bridge is popular for swimming and picnicking. On average, 142.5 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Waiohine River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, good walking tracks, close to home, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of trees and other plants, presence of

native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, feeling of remoteness.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: river works, unstable bed.

Respondents: Deerstalkers Association, Hutt Valley Canoe Club, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.26 Tauweru River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Running	✓	

Comments: The Tauweru River is used locally by anglers and occasionally feature as part of orienteering courses. On average, 94.5 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons. The Tauweru River is not included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: close to home, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, challenging environment, variety of opportunity, challenging fishing, peaceful.

Attributes that make the river unsuitable: Very poor water quality.

Respondents: Wairarapa Orienteering Club, Wellington Fish and Game Council.

3.4.27 Tauherenikau River

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Swimming		✓
Duck shooting	✓	
Walking	✓	
Picnicking		✓

1995 RPS: The upper Tauherenikau lies within the Tararua Forest Park and used by the regional population for wilderness recreation. The end of Bicks Road is used for camping and picnicking. On average, 292 angler days were recorded from the 1993-94 and 2001-02 fishing seasons.

The Tauherenikau River is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: Good water quality, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, good walking tracks, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, feeling of remoteness.

Attributes that would make the river unsuitable: Unstable bed, poor water quality, high water flow, poor scenery, poor public access, poor vehicle access (to road end or entry point), poor vehicle security (at road end or entry point), too much rubbish and litter, over developed, absence of native plants and bush.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council, Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Deerstalkers Association.

3.4.28 Lake Wairarapa

Activity	Undertaken by survey respondents	Observed by survey respondents
Fishing	✓	
Canoeing		✓
Duck shooting	✓	
Bird watching		✓
Walking	✓	

Comments: Lake Wairarapa and its wetlands are a nationally important duck hunting and bird watching area. More than 1,000 hunters use the area each year. The upper end of the lake is used for hover crafts, sailing and hydroplanes. Some use is made of the lake for commercial fishing for eels. The lake is used for trout fishing.

Lake Wairarapa is included in the proposed Regional Policy Statement (2009).

Attributes that respondents value: High water flows, deep water, shallow water, attractive scenery, good public access, good vehicle access, close to home, secluded area, presence of trout, presence of native fish, presence of trees and other plants, presence of native plants and bush, presence of birds, presence of native birds, feeling of natural environment, good views, open space, challenging environment, coarse fishing water, peaceful, isolated from close housing, big water, challenging hunting, unique in our region.

Attributes that make the lake unsuitable: Low water flow, shallow water, over developed (grazing cows), progressive loss of open water in wetlands adjoining the lake, loss of isolation.

Respondents: Wellington Fish and Game Council, Wairarapa Fish and Game Association, Deerstalkers Association.

Appendix 1: Rivers and lakes with significant or important amenity or recreation values in the Regional Policy Statement 1995 and the Regional Freshwater Plan 1999

Rivers and Lakes of regional significance for recreation and amenity values in the Regional Policy Statement 1995

Ruamahanga River

Otaki River

Wainuiomata River

Kopuaranga River

Orongorongo River

Lake Wairarapa

Rivers and lakes with regionally important amenity and recreational values in the Regional Freshwater Plan 1999

Lake Waitawa

Otaki River

Waikanae River

Hutt River

Pakuratahi River

Akatarawa River

Wainuiomata River

Waingawa River

Waiohine River

Lake Wairarapa

Ruamahanga River

Kopuaranga River

Waipoua River

Appendix 2: Survey of Recreational Users



Part A. Information about your organisation

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

In accordance with the Privacy Act, we will not pass on any specific details about you without your permission.

What recreational uses and activities of streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands are carried out by you and/or members of your organisation?

How many people (approximately) are members of, or associated with your organisation? _____

What water conditions (e.g. water quality, depth, flow, accessibility, etc) best suit your activity or use of the stream, river, lake or wetland?

Have you learned anything about the environment around the streams, rivers, lakes or wetland areas through the organisation/activity you are involved in?

 Yes No

Streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands Recreation Users Survey

Part B. Information about each stream, river, lake or wetland

Please fill out a separate sheet for **each** stream, river, lake or wetland used by your organisation **in the Wellington region...**

Name and location of the river, stream, lake or wetland used by your organisation

Do members of your organisation use the entire stream, river, lake or wetland?

Yes	No (please describe the area you use)
-----	---------------------------------------

How many people from your organisation use this stream, river, lake or wetland in any year?

Less than 5	5 - 19	20 - 49	50 or more
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How often is the stream, river, lake or wetland used by members of your organisation (circle the box(es) that apply)?

Year round	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
Weekends	Weekends	Weekends	Weekends	Weekends
2 or 3 days a week				
Once a week				
Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
Occasionally	Occasionally	Occasionally	Occasionally	Occasionally

Is this area used mainly by people who live locally?

Yes		No		Not Sure	
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If the river, stream, lake or wetland is used by people outside the local area, do they go there often?

Yes		No		Not Sure	
-----	--	----	--	----------	--

What concerns do you and/or members of your organisation have for the management of this stream, river, lake or wetland?

In your opinion, what makes this stream, river, lake or wetland suitable for your activity?

Please tick as many as you like.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Good water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secluded area
<input type="checkbox"/>	High water flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presence of trout
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low water flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presence of native fish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deep water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presence of trees and other plants
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shallow water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presence of native plants and bush
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attractive scenery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presence of birds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Close to public transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presence of native birds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good public access	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feeling of natural environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good vehicle access	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good views
<input type="checkbox"/>	Popular area	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good vehicle security	<input type="checkbox"/>	Challenging environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good walking tracks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not too challenging environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Close to home	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good water cress
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe area for kids	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnic facilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toilet facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)		
	<hr/>		
	<hr/>		
	<hr/>		

Is there anything that makes this river, stream, lake or wetland unsuitable for your activity (not necessarily all the time)?
Please tick as many as you like.

	Poor water quality		Over developed
	High water flow		Absence of trout
	Low water flow		Absence of native fish
	Deep water		Absence of trees and other plants
	Shallow water		Absence of native plants and bush
	Poor scenery		Absence of birds
	Far from public transport		Absence of native birds
	Poor public access		Feeling of natural environment
	Poor vehicle access		Poor views
	Popular area		Lack of open space
	Poor vehicle security		Too much open space
	Poor walking tracks		Challenging environment
	Too far from home		Not too challenging environment
	Not safe for kids		Lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment (eg to prevent Didymo spread)
	Too much rubbish and litter		Lack of toilet facilities
	Other (please state)		

If you can, please describe any other kinds of recreation you have noticed in this area.

If you have any other comments about this water body, please make them here (e.g. any changes to the river, stream, lake or wetland - good or bad since you first visited it)

Appendix 3: Respondents to the survey

The groups and individuals who returned surveys and their membership if stated are listed here.

Foxton Waterfowl and Wetlands Club (125 members but not in the Wellington region)

Lower Hutt Branch, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (520 members)

Deerstalkers Association, Wellington branch (140)

Tararua Tramping Club (650)

Wairarapa Fish and Game (30)

Brian Stewart (individual)

Hutt Valley track and field club (25)

Te Marua pony club (30)

Wellington Scottish Athletics club (300)

Dean Scott, GW park ranger

Wellington rifle association (90)

Hutt Valley canoe club (50)

Wairarapa outdoor pursuits (3000 clients per annum)

Kahutara canoes (take about 1500 clients year down the Ruamahanga River)

Wairarapa Orienteering club (30, 2 surveys returned)

Aurora Harrier Club (10)

Onslow amateur athletics

Kennett Brothers (10)

Hutt Valley Angling club (45)

Masterton Tramping club (40)

Wellington model power boat club (25)

Wellington radio yacht club (20)

Lower Hutt model radio controlled boat club (15)

Greater Wellington marine model boat club (40)

Wairarapa model yacht and power boat club (members not given, but up to 50 people a year)

Kaumatua tramping club (230)

Olympic harriers (200-300)

Wellington Fish and Game Council (membership not given)

Hutt Valley Tramping Club (264)

Appendix 4: Factors making identified rivers and lakes suitable and unsuitable

Table 1: The number of respondents marking each factor as “making the stream, river, lake or wetland suitable for your activity”

19	Good water quality	9	Secluded area
6	High water flows	9	Presence of trout
6	Low water flows	7	Presence of native fish
14	Deep water	15	Presence of trees and other plants
6	Shallow water	15	Presence of native plants and bush
29	Attractive scenery	14	Presence of birds
10	Close to public transport	14	Presence of native birds
34	Good public access	23	Feeling of natural environment
23	Good vehicle access	15	Good views
10	Popular area	22	Open space
7	Good vehicle security	11	Challenging environment
14	Good walking tracks	11	Not too challenging environment
23	Close to home		Good water cress
11	Safe area for kids	8	Picnic facilities
10	Toilet facilities		
	Other: remoteness, interesting and varied, presence of rapids		

Table 2: The number of respondents marking each factor as “making the stream, river, lake or wetland unsuitable for your activity (not necessarily all the time)”

14	Poor water quality	4	Over developed
12	High water flow	3	Absence of trout
12	Low water flow		Absence of native fish
1	Deep water	2	Absence of trees and other plants
12	Shallow water	3	Absence of native plants and bush
2	Poor scenery	1	Absence of birds
3	Far from public transport		Absence of native birds
2	Poor public access		Feeling of natural environment
3	Poor vehicle access	1	Poor views
3	Popular area	1	Lack of open space
4	Poor vehicle security		Too much open space
1	Poor walking tracks		Challenging environment
	Too far from home	3	Not too challenging environment
1	Not safe for kids	13	Lack of cleaning facilities for fishing equipment (eg to prevent Didymo spread)
8	Too much rubbish and litter	9	Lack of toilet facilities
	Other: algal blooms, toxic algal blooms, too many ducks, trail bikes, log jams, grazing cows		

Appendix 5: Rivers and lakes with significant amenity and recreational values listed in the proposed Regional Policy Statement, March 2009

Table 17: Rivers and lakes with significant amenity and recreational values

River or lake	Amenity or recreational values
Lake Waitawa (Forest Lakes)	kayaking, windsurfing, sailing
Otaki River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, picnicking, camping
Waikanae River	fishing, swimming, camping,
Kaiwharawhara Stream	Picnicking, walking, running,
Korokoro Stream	walking, running, mountain biking,
Hutt River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, power boating, radio controlled boats, jet skis, picnicking, walking, running, mountain biking,
Pakuratahi River	fishing, swimming, picnicking
Akatarawa River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, bird watching, picnicking, walking, running, mountain biking, trail biking, horse riding, 4-wheel driving
Upper Gollan's Stream (including Butterfly Creek)	Picnicking, tramping walking, running, bird watching
Wainuiomata River	fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, walking, horse riding
Orongorongo River	fishing, tramping
Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera Lakes	bird watching, picnicking, walking, mountain biking
Ruamahanga River	Swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, power boating, jet skiing, picnicking, walking, duck shooting
Waingawa River	fishing, swimming, kayaking, tubing, rafting, walking
Waiohine River and Mangatarere Stream	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, rafting, camping
Kopuaranga River	Fishing
Waipoua River	fishing, swimming, running, trail biking
Kouraura Dam, Gladstone	fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, picnicking, bird watching
Henley Lake, Masterton	kayaking, dragon boating, radio controlled boats, picnicking, running, biking
Lake Wairarapa	fishing, kayaking, canoeing, boating, duck shooting, bird watching, walking, photography

Water, air, earth and energy – elements in Greater Wellington’s logo that combine to create and sustain life. Greater Wellington promotes **Quality for Life** by ensuring our environment is protected while meeting the economic, cultural and social needs of the community

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