



AGENDA

Policy & Planning

Tuesday 13 February 2024 10.30am

Policy and Planning Committee

13 February 2024 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



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Whakataka te hau

Karakia to open and close meetings

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease the winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	Cease the winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Let the breeze blow over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Kia hī ake ana te atakura	Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air
He tio, he huka, he hauhu	A touch of frost, a promise of glorious day
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia tina.	Let there be certainty
Tina!	Secure it!
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!	Draw together! Affirm!

Nau mai e ngā hua

Karakia for kai

Nau mai e ngā hua	Welcome the gifts of food
o te wao	from the sacred forests
o te ngakina	from the cultivated gardens
o te wai tai	from the sea
o te wai Māori	from the fresh waters
Nā Tāne	The food of Tāne
Nā Rongo	of Rongo
Nā Tangaroa	of Tangaroa
Nā Maru	of Maru
Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei	I acknowledge Ranginui above and Papatūānuku
Ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei	below
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia	Let there be certainty
tina	Secure it!
Tina! Hui e! Taiki e!	Draw together! Affirm!



Date: 13 February 2024

Subject: Policy and Planning Committee Minutes - 21 November 2023

Author: M Jones, Governance Administrator

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management

Document: 3244828

Recommendations

That Taranaki Regional Council:

- a. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford on Tuesday 21 November 2023
- b. notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 12 December 2023.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3224208: [Minutes – Policy and Planning November 2023](#)



Date 21 November 2023

Venue: Taranaki Regional Council Boardroom, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford

Document: 3224208

Present		C S Williamson	Chairperson
		B J Bigham	<i>(zoom)</i>
		D M Cram	
		D H McIntyre	
		A L Jamieson	
		C L Littlewood	<i>(ex officio)</i>
		N W Walker	<i>(ex officio)</i>
		E Bailey	Iwi Representative <i>(zoom)</i>
		M Ritai	Iwi Representative
		G Boyde	Stratford District Council
			<i>(left meeting at 11.45)</i>
		L Gibbs	Federated Farmers
Attending	Mr	S J Ruru	Chief Executive
	Mr	A D McLay	Director - Resource Management
	Ms	A J Matthews	Director - Environment Quality
	Mr	D R Harrison	Director - Operations
	Ms	L Hawkins	Planning Manager <i>(zoom)</i>
	Mr	F Kiddle	Strategy lead
	Mr	C Woollin	Communications Advisor
	Miss	A Smith	Science Communications Advisor
			<i>(left meeting at 11.02)</i>
	Mr	F Kiddle	Strategy Lead <i>(joined meeting at 11.37am)</i>
	Mrs	M Jones	Governance Administrator
	Miss	N Chadwick	Executive Assistant
	Mr	T McElroy	Manager Science and Technology
	Mr	B Levine	Scientist Land and Soils
	Ms	B Zieltjes	Team Lead Freshwater and Coastal
	Ms	A Norhyati	Scientist Freshwater
	Ms	A Collins	Scientist water Quality

Two media representatives in attendance *(one left meeting at 11.52am)*

The meeting opened with a group Karakia at 10.30am.

Apologies: Were received and sustained from Councillor Hughes, C Filbee - South Taranaki District Council and B Haque - New Plymouth District Council.
Williamson/Walker

1. Confirmation of Minutes Policy and Planning Committee 10 October 2023

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) took as read and confirmed the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council held at 10.30 on 10 October 2023 at Taranaki Regional Council 47 Cloten Road Stratford
- b) noted the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on Tuesday 31 October 2023.

Cram/Boyde

2. Freshwater Update

- 2.1 Ms L Hawkins spoke to the memorandum to provide the Committee with an update of the Freshwater Implementation project.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the October 2023 update on the freshwater implementation programme.

Walker/McIntyre

3. Taranaki State of the Environment Lakes Monitoring Programme

- 3.1 Ms A Matthews introduced T McElroy who spoke to the memorandum to provide the committee with an overview of the new state of the environment lakes monitoring programme and the current state of health for the region's lakes.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum Taranaki State of the Environment Lakes Monitoring Programme
- b) noted the findings and recommendations therein.

Williamson/Walker

4. Prioritisation of Fresh Water Land Plan Development

- 4.1 Ms L Hawkins gave a presentation and spoke to the Memorandum to seek endorsement from the committee of the proposed development of a Freshwater and Land Plan.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum *Prioritisation of Freshwater and Land plan development*
- b) noted that there is a high level of uncertainty in relation to the future direction of resource management reform and the current national policy environment at present
- c) noted that staff expect that greater clarity around this environment will emerge over the next year
- d) agreed that development of new freshwater planning provisions needs to remain a high priority for Council
- e) endorsed the proposal to prioritise the development of the Freshwater and Land Plan for notification in December 2024 and **defer** further work on development of the Natural Resources Plan until post December 2024
- f) directed staff to review the approach that Council might use to advance resource management policy development and report back with a recommended way forward in April 2025
- g) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- h) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Ritai/McIntyre

5. Science Report Card 2023: Can I Swim Here?

- 5.1 Ms A Matthews introduced Mr T McElroy – Manager Science and Technology who spoke to the Memorandum to update the committee on the results from the 2022/2023 ‘Can I Swim Here?’ recreational water quality monitoring programme.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the *Science Report Card 2023: Can I Swim Here?*
- b) noted that monitoring for the 2023/2024 season is now underway.

Williamson/Littlewood

6. Soil Quality in the Taranaki Region 2022: Current Status, Comparison with 2017, and Temporal Analysis

- 6.1 Ms A Matthews introduced Mr B Levine who gave a presentation and spoke to the memorandum to provide the committee with an overview of the findings of the recent Soil Quality in the Taranaki Region 2022: Current status, comparison with 2017, and Temporal Analysis report.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum *Soil quality in the Taranaki Region 2022: current status, comparison with 2017, and temporal analysis* and presentation
- b) noted the recommendations of the authors and officers regarding future work.

Walker/Littlewood

(S Tamarapa Joined meeting at 12.05)

7. Dangerous Dams Policy Consultation

- 7.1 Mr F Kiddle spoke to the memorandum informing the members of the Dangerous Dams Policy.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received this memorandum titled *Dangerous Dams Policy Consultation*
- b) adopted the statement of proposal on the *Policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-Prone Dams and Flood-Prone Dams* pursuant to sections 161 and 162 of the *Building Act 2004* set out in Attachment One
- c) approved that a summary of the statement of proposal will not be prepared given that the policy will likely only be of interest to a small group of stakeholders who have a good level of knowledge about the issues involved
- d) agreed to release the Statement of Proposal for the completion of the special consultative procedure and the approval of the *Policy on Dangerous Dams, Earthquake-Prone Dams and Flood-Prone Dams* on 11 December 2023 with submissions closing on 19 February 2024
- e) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- f) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

Cram/Williamson

(Mr G Young joined meeting 12.08)

8. Revised Biodiversity Credits Submission

- 8.1 Mr F Kiddle spoke to the memorandum updating the members on the updates made to the submission following the feedback received from members at the previous Policy and Planning meeting.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Revised Biodiversity Credits Submission*
- b) endorsed the submission in Attachment One on the *Helping nature and people thrive: Exploring a biodiversity credit system for Aotearoa New Zealand – Discussion document*

- c) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- d) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter

Williamson/Walker

9. Mayoral Forum Submission on Advancing New Zealand's Energy Transition

- 9.1 Mr F Kiddle spoke to the memorandum updating the members on the on the Taranaki Mayoral Forum's submission on the *Advancing New Zealand's Energy Transition* package of documents.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Mayoral Forum Submission on Advancing New Zealand's Energy Transition*
- b) noted the submission contained in Appendix One.

Littlewood/Gibbs

10. Proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards Decision Making 2023 Submission

- 10.1 Ms L Hawkins spoke to the memorandum to present the members with the submission that was made on the proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards Decision Making 2023 (NPS-NHD)

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards Decision Making 2023 Submission*
- b) endorsed the submission, on the draft National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards Decision Making
- c) determined that this decision be recognised as not significant in terms of section 76 of the *Local Government Act 2002*
- d) determined that it has complied with the decision-making provisions of the *Local Government Act 2002* to the extent necessary in relation to this decision; and in accordance with section 79 of the Act, determined that it does not require further information, further assessment of options or further analysis of costs and benefits, or advantages and disadvantages prior to making a decision on this matter.

McIntyre/Cram

11. Select Committee Inquiry into Climate Adaptation Sector Submission

- 11.1 Mr F Kiddle spoke to the memorandum to inform the members of the submission from Te Uru Kahika on the Environment Committee's inquiry into climate Adaptation.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum titled *Select Committee Inquiry into Climate Adaptation: Sector Submission*
- b) noted the Te Uru Kahika submission contained in Attachment One.

Cram/Jamieson

12. Development of a Joint Future Development Strategy with New Plymouth District Council

- 12.1 Ms L Hawkins spoke to the memorandum to inform the members on the requirements for the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) to work with New Plymouth District Council (NPDC) on the development and implementation of a Future Development Strategy (FDS), under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) 2020.

Resolved

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) received the memorandum *Development of a Future Development Strategy with New Plymouth District Council*
- b) noted the background context for the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020
- c) noted the combined obligations of the Taranaki and New Plymouth Councils, as directed under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020, to develop a Future Development Strategy using a special consultative procedure under section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002
- d) noted Taranaki and New Plymouth Council's collaborative arrangements for delivering the Future Development Strategy
- e) noted the requirement for a joint committee to be developed to facilitate the special consultative procedure, including consideration of iwi representation, and for options on this process to be brought back to the committee in February 2024
- f) delegated to the Chief Executive the authority to seek recommendations from iwi regarding the appointment of a iwi/hapū representative on the joint committee.

Williamson/Ritai

There being no further business the Committee Chairperson, C S Williamson, declared the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee closed with karakia at 12.40am.

**Policy and
Planning**

Chairperson: _____

C S Williamson



Date: 14 February 2024

Subject: Government Policy Update

Author: F Kiddle, Strategy Lead

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management

Document: 3242695

Purpose

1. To provide a summary of key policy statements from the new Government. Details on the Government's freshwater policy are discussed in the memo dated the 13 February 2024 Freshwater Implementation Update memorandum.

Executive summary

2. The new Government has set out a wide-ranging policy programme with much of it having significant impact. The most direct are regarding resource management. Beyond freshwater related matters, the repeal of the new resource management legislation has meant planning to implement those acts has now stopped. Engaging with the Government on amending the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and designing a new replacement will also require significant advocacy effort.
3. Government policies set to evaluate the place of te Tiriti o Waitangi in New Zealand society will also affect the Council. If the proposed Treaty Principles Bill passes, it will shape the application of many different pieces of legislation. Even if it does not, the resulting debate will prove contentious. And with a policy intent to require any local government Māori wards not established by a referendum, such as the Council's to go through such a process, debate will flow down to the regional level.
4. Within the policy announcements there are notable opportunities for Taranaki. There is a strong focus on supporting renewable energy development. This is further supported by a broader emphasis on supporting infrastructure development. How much the repeal of the oil and gas exploration ban affects the Taranaki economy is uncertain. It is possible that wider market trends will keep the market depressed.
5. The period of change the regional sector has found itself in over the last few years is set to continue. Resource management changes, te Tiriti debates, infrastructure needs, climate change matters, public service cuts, wide-ranging regulatory reviews and more will all impact the work of the Council. And while the broad thrust of the Government's approach is known, there is still considerable uncertainty around what the detail will look like.

Recommendations

That Taranaki Regional Council:

- a. receives the memorandum titled *Government Policy Update*
- b. notes that the Government's announced policy programme will have significant impacts, but considerable uncertainty remains on the detail of that policy programme
- c. notes significant advocacy effort will likely be needed to engage in the national policy process.

Background

6. The new Government is the first three party coalition in New Zealand history. National, ACT and New Zealand First all have ministers inside Cabinet and have set out a wide ranging policy programme. This is contained in National's fiscal plan, tax plan, 100 day plan, and 100 point economic plan; the New Zealand First and National Party coalition agreement; and the Act and National Party coalition agreement. There have been subsequent announcements that have provided additional detail.
7. As part of implementing the 100 day plan, there have already been substantive actions that impact on the Council. These are covered in more detail in the discussion.
8. The below list sets out those ministerial portfolios and their holder that are particularly relevant for the Council's business:
 - Hon Chris Bishop: Minister for Infrastructure and Minister Responsible for RMA Reform.
 - Hon Simeon Brown: Minister for Energy, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Transport.
 - Hon Todd Mc Clay: Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Forestry.
 - Hon Tama Potaka: Minister of Conservation, Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti and Minister for Māori Development.
 - Hon Melissa Lee: Minister for Economic Development.
 - Hon David Seymour: Minister for Regulation and Associate Minister of Justice.
 - Hon Shane Jones: Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Resources, and Associate Minister for Energy.
 - Hon Simon Watts: Minister of Climate Change (outside Cabinet).
 - Hon Penny Simmonds: Minister for the Environment (outside Cabinet).
 - Hon Andrew Hoggard: Minister for Biosecurity and Associate Minister for the Environment (outside Cabinet).
 - Hon Mark Patterson: Associate Minister of Agriculture (outside Cabinet).

Discussion

Resource management

9. The Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act have now both been repealed. However, the Government did retain the fast track consenting aspects of the legislation as an interim solution until separate fast track legislation is developed. The Government also retained the Spatial Planning Board – an interdepartmental executive board responsible for providing advice to ministers on spatial planning.
10. The Government has stated it will develop new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). It aims to introduce this to the House in year 3 of the term. Significant details on what this legislation will entail are yet to be announced. However, coalition agreements indicate that it will be a more streamlined and permissive regime, which has the enjoyment of property rights as a guiding

principle. Retaining the Spatial Planning Board signals that some aspect of spatial planning will likely be included in any new legislation.

11. Prior to that legislation passing, the Government has also said it will amend the RMA. This is to “make it easier to consent new infrastructure including renewable energy, allow farmers to farm, build more houses, and enable aquaculture and other primary industries.”
12. The immediate impact on the Council is that work has now stopped on planning to implement the new acts. Although in the context of the Long Term Plan, consideration is being given to the benefit of still gradually pursuing some degree of spatial planning. Substantial advocacy effort will likely be required as the RMA amendments advance and the new legislation is developed.
13. Other relevant policy positions, excluding freshwater matters, in the resource management space are:
 - A direction to councils to stop implementing the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and generally revisiting the approach as part of the broader RMA reforms. This is particularly focused on provisions related to significant natural areas, a territorial authority responsibility.
 - Amending the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry to place a duty upon harvesters to contain and remove post-harvest slash.

Māori and te Tiriti

14. The role of te Tiriti o Waitangi in New Zealand society is a contentious part of the Government’s policy programme. The coalition partners have agreed to support a Treaty Principles Bill – based on existing ACT policy – being introduced to the House, with no further commitment to advance it beyond the first reading.
15. As already demonstrated, the Bill will prove contentious. If passed, the Bill would have wide-ranging impacts across the legislation the Council implements. For example, it would influence how the Council takes into account te Tiriti principles under the RMA. How the Bill relates to a separate policy commitment to review all references to te Tiriti principles in existing legislation, except Treaty settlements, is yet to be announced.
16. A more immediate impact for the Council amongst the Government’s policy programme is regarding Māori wards. This policy states the right to a referendum on local government Māori wards will be re-established. Any wards that have been established without a referendum will be required to hold one. This applies to the Council’s Māori constituency. Such a referendum would likely occur as part of the 2025 local body elections. National debates will likely then flow down to those associated with the referendum.
17. The National Party has been explicit in that moves to end ‘co-governance’ do not apply to Treaty settlements. This means the Council’s iwi representatives on the Policy and Planning Committee and Operations and Regulatory Committee are protected.

Infrastructure

18. The affordable waters (formally three waters) legislation is set for repeal in early 2024. This will stop the formation of the planned 10 public water entities. Instead, the National Party has set forth its Local Water Done Well policy. This will require councils to deliver a plan for how they will transition their water services to a model that meets water quality and infrastructure investment rules, while being financially sustainable in the long-term. This is primarily a matter for Taranaki’s territorial authorities, but it will have significant implications for the management of freshwater and the region’s local government landscape.
19. The new Government has also shown a strong focus on supporting infrastructure development. This is through a \$1.2 billion regional infrastructure fund, the desire to develop regional deals, establishing a national infrastructure agency, a \$1 billion incentive fund for councils that deliver housing, and the

Roads of National Significance programme – improvements to SH43 being the only identified Taranaki project. How these various policies can best be used to benefit Taranaki communities is an ongoing matter of discussion.

Energy and mining

20. The most publicized energy policy of the Government is the repeal of the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration. How much this changes the dynamics of the oil and gas industry in New Zealand remains to be seen. It is possible that wider trends still depress investment.
21. Beyond the oil and gas sector, there is strong support for the development of renewable energy. The National Party indicated a range of policy positions to speed up the consenting of onshore generation and transmission; along with the desire to complete the development of the regulatory regime for offshore wind quickly. The New Zealand First coalition agreement also makes reference to a transition to low carbon fuels, including methanol and hydrogen infrastructure.
22. The new Government's attitude towards mining is more enabling than the former Labour government. Reference in the New Zealand First coalition agreement to "investigating the strategic opportunities in New Zealand's mineral resources, including vanadium" is relevant for Taranaki. Extracting vanadium, a rare mineral used in steel alloys and being explored in battery technology, is a key part of the value proposition for offshore iron sand mining.

Other notable policies

23. Reductions in the size of the public service and the cutting of red tape are part of the Government's policy. The ACT coalition agreement refers to cuts of 'non-essential back office functions' based on head count in 2017 as a reference point. This has since translated to a directive for all Government departments to identify savings of either 6.5 or 7.5 percent depending on how much their head count has grown since 2017. On the regulatory front, a new Minister and Ministry for Regulation will work across departments to review existing and new legislation to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Details on how National's proposed Rural Regulation Review Panel would interact with the new Minister and Ministry are yet to be revealed.
24. Transport policy has featured heavily in the initial acts of the Government. This has included repealing the Clean Car Discount and "Ute Tax", a directive to halt work on cycling and walking initiatives around the country, cancelling the Auckland light rail project, and an agreement to dissolve Let's Get Wellington Moving. Combined with the Roads of National Significance Project and the commitment to reduce speed limit reductions where it is safe to do so, a strong shift towards road transport is clear.
25. The most prominent climate change policies of the government are those relating to renewable energy discussed earlier. Other relevant policies include developing a network of 10,000 public EV chargers by 2030, banning foreign direct investment for carbon forestry, enabling farmers to offset on-farm emissions against on-farm sequestration, and reviewing the Government's methane targets. The review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme has also now been stopped.

Impact on the Council

26. Beyond the specific examples discussed above, the period of change regional councils have found themselves in for a number of years is set to continue. This change also includes a period of heightened uncertainty during the policy development phase. The Council will need to remain flexible while continuing to deliver on known community priorities.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

27. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

28. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Iwi considerations

29. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002) as outlined in the adopted Long-Term Plan and/or Annual Plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

30. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

31. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.



Date: 13 February 2024

Subject: Freshwater Implementation Update

Author: L Hawkins, Policy Manager

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management

Document: 3243292

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a Freshwater Implementation project update.

Executive summary

2. Set out in this memorandum is an update on the progress of implementing the Freshwater package from central government. The memorandum focusses on the key tasks undertaken since the previous Committee meeting, and identifies risks associated with the project and achievement of the project timeframes.
3. The attached report focusses on the key streams of work associated with the freshwater package. This being policy development, implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plans (FWFP) regulations and the communications and engagement timeline.

Recommendation

That Taranaki Regional Council:

- a. receives the February 2024 update on the Freshwater Implementation Programme.

Background

4. This memorandum updates members on progress in implementing the Freshwater Package. An implementation programme was previously presented to, and approved by the Committee. This report provides an overview on the progress of the work programme, specifically focusing on the previous 6 weeks and those ahead. It provides an opportunity for discussions relating to progress and risks identified.
5. Since the update provided at the November Policy and Planning Committee meeting, the government has made a number of announcements in relation freshwater implementation. An overview of these changes and potential implications is provided in this memorandum.

Discussion

6. The attached report (attachment 1) provides a high level overview of the progress made since the last Committee meeting in November 2023, and identifies those tasks to be undertaken in the coming 6 weeks. It also identifies risks associated with the programme, and a copy of the high level engagement strategy – although please note that the engagement strategy will be reviewed in light of the recent government announcements.

7. Key discussion points are included in this covering memorandum to draw Members attention to key areas of work.

Update on Government Announcements

8. In December 2023 Parliament passed legislation repealing the Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act. As part of the Resource Management (Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Repeal and Interim Fast-track Consenting) Act 2023 the government extended the deadline for notification of regional freshwater planning instruments by three years.
9. Previously, the Resource Management Act (1991) required regional councils to publicly notify freshwater planning instruments that give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater (NPSFM) by 31 December 2024.
10. As part of this package the government also signaled their intent to replace the NPSFM, with work beginning immediately and to review the NES and regulations. The process is expected to take between 18 and 24 months and will include a full consultation process with all stakeholders including iwi and the community. To date there has been limited detail from the government indicating the level of change expected beyond such indications as '*... is committed to improving freshwater quality for the benefit of all New Zealanders by ensuring a sustainable and balanced approach that works towards improving the environmental outcomes for our waterways*'.
11. Since this announcement from the government, Councils NPSFM work programme has continued, but staff are considering the best way and timing for that given the uncertainty about future changes. Our existing programme is budgeted for and is working towards the 2024 deadline. There is no doubt the existing timeline is challenging for council staff, iwi partners and the community. The extension to the timeframes for notification where it allows us to work more with communities and tangata whenua to produce a better plan for our region has benefits. However, this must also be considered along with community expectations for improved freshwater outcomes and benefits of completing the planning work so Council can shift effort to implementation for on the ground results in our region.
12. There are a number of considerations which staff are currently working through, including those listed below:
 - a. Existing requirements of the RMA and the NPSFM are for Regional Policy Statements (RPS) and Regional Plans to give effect to the NPSFM 'as soon as reasonably practicable'. This obligation has not been affected by the new deadline;
 - b. A long term approach is needed to achieve improvements to water quality and quantity, the regional plan is an essential tool in 'making a difference';
 - c. The benefit of maintaining momentum in all aspects of this work, including the expectations of iwi and the community;
 - d. Long Term Plan consideration, including the financial implications of any delay to the existing programme and also the impact LTP work streams that will continue work towards freshwater improvement – i.e. monitoring programmes, partnership with iwi etc;
 - e. Our existing Regional Plan is over 22 years old. It has not kept pace with freshwater management practice, and there are RMA obligations of Council regarding the regular review and update of plans;

- f. The best approach to address the pressing environmental issues in Taranaki, and the impact of a delay in progressing the plan;
 - g. Ability of the programme to pause and reflect as further detail from government becomes clearer; and
 - h. Changing government policy settings is common, while meeting legislative obligations, this needs to be considered in light of a response appropriate for Taranaki.
13. For these reasons the extended notification date of 2027 is not an automatic default and an approach needs to be developed so that Council works to a timeframe that is best for Taranaki. Staff will continue to explore the elements above and develop options. These options will be brought back to the Committee at the next meeting where a formal decision on a proposed timeline will be sought.

Freshwater Farm Plans (FWFP)

14. Whilst there have been a number of changes in the freshwater space from the government, this does not impact on the freshwater farm plan regulations. Council staff continue their mahi in working towards implementing the freshwater farm plan system and key tasks currently underway are included in the attachment to this memorandum.
15. Staff are continuing to implement the FWFP system to the currently agreed start date of 1 July 2024 in the Waingongoro Catchment. This process will be formalised through an Order in Council (OIC). However, after initially supplying the relevant information to MFE before Christmas, we are waiting for them to resume proceedings to complete the OIC for phase three regions (including Taranaki).
16. Although there has been no significant change to the process of implementing FWFP, the government has indicated introducing a fees reimbursement scheme for those who are appointed as a FWFP certifier and/or auditor along with a peer support programme for appointed certifiers and auditors. This should encourage more to become a certifier/auditor.

Working with iwi

17. Work continues with the Ngā iwi o Tarankai Pou Taiao officer on key elements of work, including the development of a summary report identifying potential measures for Māori freshwater values to help inform the setting of Target Attribute States.
18. An ongoing work and meeting schedule has been set up for 2024 with iwi Pou Taiao. Conversations with the majority of the Pou Taiao at the end of the 2023 confirmed this approach, with a number iwi indicating the work to date has been valuable with a commitment to continue to work together. It was also noted that as policy drafting becomes more refined, work with hapū will likely become more important. All iwi have advised it is appropriate to continue to work through them to facilitate hapū conversations, unless individual hapū have already indicated an alternative approach. This will continue to be revisited to ensure the approach is supported.

Consultation update

19. A high level summary of the key themes from the consultation was presented at the last Committee meeting. Since then staff have further analysed the feedback and have prepared a consultation summary report. This report is the subject of a standalone committee memorandum on this meeting Agenda. It will be made available online and those who participated in the consultation will be provided a link to the report.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

20. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

21. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Iwi considerations

22. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002) as outlined in the adopted Long-Term Plan and/or Annual Plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

23. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

24. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3243293: [Freshwater Implementation Progress Report 13 February 2024](#)

Freshwater Implementation Project Report to Policy & Planning Committee

February 2024

	Progress in the last six weeks	Key tasks in the coming six weeks	Risks
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of feedback received during consultation period. Set direction for updates required, working alongside Pou Taiao position. Finalise attribute identification for all values. Pou Taiao position focussing on Māori freshwater values has been received at the end of January. Commence work on identifying Target Attribute State (TAS) setting with science leads, initial focus on the compulsory attributes. Develop tech memos for setting TAS for phosphorus, nitrates, <i>E.coli</i>, sediment and flows. First drafts completed end January. Continue interviews with farm owners and operators and industry bodies across the region to inform the economic assessment report. Continue discussions with Pukerangiora, Otaraua and Manukorihi hapū in Waitara on Mana o te Wai hui. Continued conversations with Ngā iwi o Taranaki focussing on refinement of TMOTW and NOF process. Conversations at the end of the year confirm best approach to continue to work with iwi in 2024. Pou Taiao agreement focussing on conversation around what it means to give effect to TMOTW through rule development Continue drafting of region wide objective, policies and rule framework. Further refinement work for <i>E.coli</i> model continues including stage 3 mitigations. The science team is continuing to build its evidence base for informing the target and limit setting process. This involves simulating a range of possible scenarios relating to different water allocation regimes and contaminant load reduction measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise first draft of TAS technical reports on phosphorus, nitrate, <i>E.coli</i>, sediment and flow. Finalise first draft of Region Wide objective, policies and rule framework. Begin drafting TAS, flows and limits, aligning science and policy approach. Work through the Māori Freshwater attributes report with iwi Pou Taiao in order to set TAS. Continue discussions with iwi pou taiao on policy and science investigations and approach, particular focus on working through NOF process and rule framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium risk – Partnership with iwi. Risk that the timeframes, complexity of issues and the need to be working in an agile manner to develop the policy framework will impact on the partnership approach being fostered. Amendments to the Pou Taiao Agreement including the setting up of a steering committee to mitigate this risk. Opportunity to consider amendment to programme to providing more time and opportunity to work through policy drafting. Medium risk – participation in the community engagement is low. Mitigated through continued promotion of process, community meetings switched to being held at various locations, targeted engagement with industry groups to lessen the load on individuals. High risk –change to direction of the NPSFM with the new government. We can mitigate against this risk by maintaining momentum on policy development so as to avoid a rush to implement ahead of 2027 notification, keeping abreast of policy announcements from the government, and taking pause when necessary to confirm approach as policy guidance develops.
Freshwater Farm Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of framework for CCCV for freshwater farm plans (FWFP), including meeting with Pou Taiao at the end of the November to discuss framework and approach to work with iwi and hapū. Update provided to the Wai Steering Group in December. Communication strategy for FWFP underway. Finalise contract with Assure Quality with regard to training modules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work on developing the CCCV for the Waingongoro River, including preparation for discussions with industry bodies to test the approach. Meet with iwi Pou Taiao to discuss the approach on how TRC and iwi work together for FWFP implementation, particular focus to be on CCCV development and regional training development. Discuss with relevant iwi for the Waingongoro the approach with hapū. Begin work on developing the framework for regional training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low risk – potential change to direction of FWFP regulations with the new government. The government has signalled the continuation of the FWFP process and Councils should expect an order in council, as such this is a low risk. The continuation of the programme will mitigate against any pressure to respond to an OIC when released.

Engagement and Communication Strategy (Policy Development)

Please note the following is currently under review and will be updated upon adoption of an updated work programme.

Set out below is a high level summary of the engagement approach and timing for key components supporting the policy development. Also noted is a high level timeline for key communications and engagement activity. Note this engagement plan does not include Council working with their tangata whenua partners, this process is subject to an alternative approach led with the Pou Taiao and Council’s Iwi communications advisor.

Phase	Stage	What	Who	Timing*
Phase 1	Seek to understand Focus: gathering info from audiences about what’s important to them	This phase has covered seeking input on a variety of high level freshwater matters including visions for Freshwater in Taranaki, identification of values for freshwater management and feedback on the proposed FMU boundaries. Input has been sought through a variety of mediums including online surveys, social pinpoint, face to face meetings and drop-in sessions (ie Stratford A&P show).	Community and special interest groups.	Apr 2021 to Mar 2023
Phase 2	Test options Focus: building and discussion on options that meet the region’s wants and needs	There are two key steps in this process: 1. Testing the building blocks of the National Objectives Framework. A discussion document for each FMU is being prepared and will cover visions, values, baselines and environmental outcomes. 2. Testing limits and targets. Continuing to build the National Objectives Framework, this step will present options for the limits and targets for the new plan. This phase will also likely include region wide policy framework discussions.	1. Community – via online consultation opportunity. Special interest groups including industry bodies, catchment groups, government agencies, district councils, environmental NGOs – via workshop discussions. 2. Community and special interest groups. A series of face to face meetings around the region and opportunity for online feedback.	Aug 2023 to Mar 2024
Phase 3	Present preferred solution Focus: presentation of best options (draft plan)	A draft plan will be compiled and through requirements of the RMA an opportunity for written feedback provided.	Clause 3 – listed in the RMA, and special interest groups.	Mid 2024
Phase 4	Notification: Public submissions Focus: formal communication relating to Plan notification	The Freshwater components of the NRP must be notified by December 2024. Once notified all interested parties will have the opportunity formally submit written submissions on the notified plan.	All interested parties.	End 2024 for notification. Submission period early 2025.

* Note the timing is indicative only, as a full programme review is currently being undertaken.

Essential Freshwater Engagement Strategy timeline

	Seek to understand								Test options					Solution	Notification										
	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-Mar '24	Apr-Jun '24	Jul-Sep '24	Oct-Dec '24	Jan-Mar '25	
Phase 1: Seek to understand																									
- Freshwater Visions																									
- Freshwater Values																									
- FMU boundaries																									
Phase 2: Test Options																									
- Freshwater Visions																									
- Freshwater Values																									
- Environmental outcomes																									
Phase 3: Present Preferred solution																									
- Draft plan clause 3 consultaion																									
Phase 4: Notification																									
- Plan notification + consultation																									
Inform: NES Rules																									
- Nitrogen Cap																									
- Stock Exclusion																									
- Land intensification																									
- Freshwater Farm Plans																									
- Intensive Winter Grazing																									
- Structures in rivers																									
- Feedlots and stockholding																									



Date: 13 February 2024

Subject: **Freshwater Engagement**

Author: S Harris, Policy Analyst and G Marcroft, Senior Policy Analyst Regional Plan Lead

Approved by: A D McLay, Director - Resource Management

Document: 3243229

Purpose

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the findings of the third phase of public engagement on freshwater. The engagement is a critical component on implementing the *National Objectives Framework* (NOF) under the *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management* (NPS-FM) 2020.

Executive summary

2. Set out in the memorandum is an update on the September/October 2023 engagement process and the resulting key themes from feedback received.
3. The memorandum focusses on NPS-FM requirements and identifies the engagement approach that was taken, the report findings and potential next steps towards implementing the NOF.
4. The attached report summarises the full engagement process including methodology of consultation and levels of support or disagreement for draft provisions. Each section of the report identifies the key themes from the feedback and explores the different perspectives.

Recommendations

That Taranaki Regional Council:

- a) receives this memorandum titled *Freshwater engagement report following September/October 2023 consultation*.
- b) notes that this engagement period is part of a broader community consultation process which will continue in 2024 as part of developing the *Proposed Land and Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* (in prep).

Background

5. In 2020, the government released updates to the NPS-FM, which set out the directions for management of the freshwater resources. These updates were part of a broad suite of changes to freshwater management across the country with the aim of stopping further degradation and loss, reversing past damage and addressing water allocation issues. A wider consultation and implementation programme was previously presented to, and approved by, the Committee.

6. The NPS-FM requires that the Council engage with communities and tangata whenua at each step of the NOF process. Previous engagement with communities has already occurred in March/April 2021 (seeking initial views of the direction of travel required for freshwater in Taranaki) and in October/November 2022 (seeking specific recommendations on the direction of travel required for each Freshwater Management Unit (FMU)).
7. This third phase of engagement builds upon those previous engagement phases by presenting draft wording of the following provisions for feedback:
 - 7.1. the Te Mana o te Wai objective to be included in the Council's future *Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (in prep);
 - 7.2. the long-term vision objectives for each FMU to be included in the Council's future *Proposed Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (in prep); and
 - 7.3. the freshwater values relevant to each FMU and the environmental outcome objectives to be included in the Council's future *Proposed Land and Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* (in prep).
8. The engagement also introduced the baseline states for attributes (the current environmental state according to prescribed measures), principles that could be applied for setting targets for attribute states, as well investigating potential environmental actions that could be used to help achieve the various objectives.
9. Community consultation period occurred across a five week period spanning September/October 2023.
10. The attached report summarises the approach, methodology and key themes from across the various feedback channels.

Engagement approach

11. The engagement was supported by the development of resources and educational material to ensure that responders were well equipped and appropriately informed to participate. This included six discussion documents (one for each FMU), 11 technical memos, and a consultation website to house the material and provide participation options.
12. The consultation channels included:
 - 12.1. regular hui and an online collaborative feedback board with iwi pou taiao;
 - 12.2. four special interest group workshops;
 - 12.3. six community workshops;
 - 12.4. written submissions;
 - 12.5. six online surveys (one for each FMU); and
 - 12.6. social media comments.
13. In addition, the Council received the responses from a voluntarily created survey by Fish and Game.

Level of engagement

14. Across all written channels, 270 responses were received. Across the workshops and the various written channels respondents provided an estimated 6,800 individual pieces of feedback. **Table 1** below shows a summary of these responses.
15. Fifty people attended the stakeholder workshops and 35 attended the community workshops.

Table 1: Counts of responses across different engagement channels.

	Pātea	Waitara	Southern Hill Country	Northern Hill Country	Volcanic Ring Plain	Coastal Terraces	General (All FMU)	TOTAL
Social media	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	6
Online survey (TRC)	12	21	19	19	64	9	N/A	144
Written submissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	7
Online survey (Forest and Bird)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	113	113
TOTAL	12	21	19	19	64	10	125	270

Report findings

16. Staff have recently completed reviewing all feedback and have identified the key themes. These are included and discussed in the consultation report attached.
17. Large support was indicated across the board for each of the elements being consulted on. Generally, people are comfortable with the direction of travel, the intent and the approaches being suggested. However, a number of concerns, questions and points of opposition were also noted.
18. Key themes from the feedback from across the different consultation elements included responders seeking:
 - 18.1. for te reo Māori terms to be clearly defined and explained;
 - 18.2. to see more detail (e.g. rules) that would sit behind the draft provisions and principles in order to see how they would be personally affected;
 - 18.3. to understand the economic costs to achieving the aspirations;
 - 18.4. to know how aspirations would be achieved and who would be expected to carry out actions;
 - 18.5. to understand how conflicts between values would be managed; and
 - 18.6. to create more specificity between each FMU.
19. Feedback analysis also highlighted a number of mixed views within the community, particularly between how use and development of resources should be balanced against protection of freshwater health and ecosystems, with some providing feedback on their preference of priority for certain values within the hierarchy of obligations. In addition, mixed responses came through for the partnership approach with tangata whenua and recognition of Māori values. While a majority indicated support for the Councils continued partnership and work with tangata whenua in freshwater decisions some sought confirmation that all voices would be upheld in freshwater decision processes. With regards to Māori values, support for their recognition and inclusion was balanced against those wishing to better understand how the recognised values may be treated. For example with regards to providing for mahinga kai and whether this would enable/promote access through private land.
20. Detailed summaries of each key theme, as they relate to the policy framework, are provided in the attached report.

Next steps

21. This engagement has been extremely insightful and has provided Council staff with necessary information to progress policy development, mindful of community expectations. Council staff will utilise feedback gathered to inform updates and re-drafting of the provisions as required. Council staff

will be focusing on ensuring that any updates are consistent with the broader requirements of the NPS-FM.

22. Staff are particularly mindful to ensure that re-drafts:
 - 22.1. improve clarity and understanding;
 - 22.2. consider any conflicts between different values and provisions (noting that some conflicts may need to be resolved through policy directions rather than through objectives themselves); and
 - 22.3. strike the right balance between ensuring protection and maintenance of values while also enabling and providing for appropriate use and development.
23. Going forward, future engagement will present a more complete framework to support the objectives so that the community:
 - 23.1. is aware of any potential changes to the way freshwater may be managed going forward;
 - 23.2. can determine likely impacts on people and businesses as a result of any changes; and
 - 23.3. can understand the likely costs and economic impacts.
24. The next phase of community engagement will be in May 2024.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

25. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

26. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Iwi considerations

27. This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's policy for the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes (schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 2002*) as outlined in the adopted Long-Term Plan and/or Annual Plan. Similarly, iwi involvement in adopted work programmes has been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Community considerations

28. This memorandum and the associated recommendations have considered the views of the community, interested and affected parties and those views have been recognised in the preparation of this memorandum.

Legal considerations

29. This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 3236767: [CONSULTATION REPORT - Next steps for freshwater \(Sept/Oct 2023\) consultation report - Te mana o te wai, long-term visions, values, environmental outcomes, principles for setting target attribute states, environmental actions - Jan 2023](#)

NEXT STEPS FOR FRESHWATER:

Community Engagement Report

An overview of Phase 3 freshwater engagement: September/October 2023

Te Mana o te Wai

Long-term visions

Freshwater Values

Environmental Outcomes

Attributes

Environmental Actions

Principles for Setting Target Attribute States



Taranaki Regional Council

Private Bag 713

Stratford 4352

February 2024

Document: 3236767

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Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the methodology and findings of the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) from its third round of community engagement on the long-term visions, values and environmental outcomes for the six Taranaki Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) as part of the National Objectives Framework (NOF). During this engagement period the Council sought feedback on a Taranaki-focused objective for Te Mana o te Wai, long-term visions for each of the region's Freshwater Management Units (FMUs), environmental outcomes for important freshwater values and options for achieving improved water quality across the region. This discussion was informed by a large piece of technical work that assessed and presented the state of freshwater within each FMU through 'attributes' or different measures of freshwater health.

The various objectives and related provisions will be included across the Council's suite of regulatory documents that set out how freshwater is managed, including in a revised *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki (RPS)* and a new *Land and Freshwater Plan*.

In this report the Council:

- presents a summary of the engagement approach and methodology adopted for this phase of Council engagement;
- summarises discussions from hui with iwi pou taiao (iwi environmental staff), responses from the online survey, in-person catchment and stakeholder workshops, and written submissions;
- presents the key themes from all feedback channels that summarises the points of support and points of concern for each of the draft elements; and
- signals next steps for freshwater management in Taranaki and outlines upcoming opportunities for further engagement with our communities.

Background

In 2020 the government released updates to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), which sets out the directions for the management of freshwater resources. These updates were part of a broad suite of changes to freshwater management across the country with the aim of stopping further degradation and loss, reversing past damage and addressing water allocation issues

The NPS-FM requires that the Council:

- (1) identify Freshwater Management Units (FMUs);
- (2) prepare a Te Mana o te Wai objective that says how the concept of Te Mana o te Wai will be given effect to in Taranaki;
- (3) prepare long-term visions for each FMU and include those as objectives in the *Regional Policy Statement* for Taranaki;
- (4) identify the freshwater values relevant to each FMU;
- (5) prepare environmental outcomes for each value and include those as objectives in the *Proposed Land and Freshwater Plan for Taranaki*;
- (6) identify, measure and set targets for attributes (measures of freshwater health); and
- (7) achieve all of the above by setting limits on resource use, applying conditions to resource consents and preparing and implementing action plans.

Obtaining a community perspective on points (2), (3), (4) and (5) was the primary focus of this phase of engagement. The engagement also touched on point (6), however this will require further conversations going forward. This consultation builds on two earlier engagement phases that occurred across March/April 2021 and October/November 2022.

The Council prepared six discussion documents¹ – one for each FMU – to inform and facilitate community engagement. These discussion documents covered:

- the FMU approach for the region
- the context of the policy directives at both a national and regional scale
- the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective
- the baseline states/environmental state of freshwater within each FMU (see note below)
- the draft long-term vision for each FMU
- the relevant freshwater values and draft environmental outcomes for each FMU
- the principles for setting target attribute states
- the background information such as lists of threatened species, primary contact sites and recreational fishing locations within each FMU.

Note: baseline states are requirements under the NPS-FM whereby the Council must investigate the state of a particular measure of freshwater health (called attributes in the NPS-FM) and report on that in conjunction with the development of the freshwater policy framework. If current data is insufficient to ascertain an attribute's baseline, the Council must use the best information available at the time. This may include modelling, partial data and local knowledge. Councils may gather new information and data (numeric or narrative) to inform baseline states. This crucial step sets a benchmark against which councils must either maintain or improve the health and well-being of the water body and freshwater ecosystem

¹ Discussion documents can be found at the bottom of [this webpage](#).

Consultation Focus Areas

Six consultation documents – one for each FMU – provided background information on each of the consultation focus areas outlined below:

- **Te Mana o te Wai** – this is the central concept underpinning the NPS-FM which was originally incorporated in the 2014 update to the NPS-FM. An update to the NPS-FM in 2020 elevated Te Mana o te Wai as the foremost fundamental concept. The NPS-FM requires the preparation of an objective that sets out how the Council will give effect to Te Mana o te Wai in the region. This objective will be included in an updated *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (in prep). During this round of community engagement, Council sought feedback on the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective. Feedback was sought on both the extent to which responders agreed or disagreed and the wording of the draft objective.
- **Baseline states** – within the discussion documents for each FMU and during the workshops, the Council provided a high-level summary of state of freshwater across the region. The material presented included, long-term data from the Council’s state of the environment monitoring programme, more recently collected data as well as modelled data. This identified the baseline state (current state of the attribute) and compared this against set national bottom-lines where relevant.
- **Long-term visions for FMUs** – long-term visions are a critical part of the NPS-FM and provide for long-term planning, beyond the 10-year review cycle of individual plans. These should set an ambitious but achievable goal that represents what communities and tangata whenua want to see for their water bodies. Long-term visions direct the other steps in the NOF process and at each step the council must demonstrate how it is achieving the vision.
- **Values and environmental outcomes** – There are 13 freshwater values set out in the NPS-FM and four of those values (ecosystem health, human contact, threatened species and mahinga kai) apply to every FMU. Additional freshwater values² can also be applied if the value is relevant to the FMU. Using feedback from earlier rounds of engagement the Council identified the additional freshwater values for each FMU and developed draft environmental outcomes aligned with each value. This round of engagement offered an opportunity to check the suite of values identified and to present draft environmental outcomes for feedback. Ultimately, these environmental outcomes will be stated as objectives and included in the future *Proposed Land and Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* (in prep). Feedback was sought on the suite of values, the extent to which responders agreed or disagreed and the wording of the draft objectives.
- **Additional attributes** – an attribute is a measure of freshwater health. There are many measures of health that can be applied when determining the state of freshwater and the NPS-FM prescribes 22 that the Council must monitor and use in assessments of freshwater health. These 22 attributes inform our understanding of the state of ecosystem health and human contact (two of the values that apply to every waterbody). The remaining 11 values had no attribute assigned for this phase of policy development. Feedback was invited on potential measures for the remaining values to track progress on water quality improvements. Many of the 22 prescribed attributes could also be cross-purposed to measure other values and this approach was explored with workshop attendees.

² Additional freshwater values include: natural form and character; drinking water supply; transport and tauranga waka fishing; hydro-electric power generation; animal drinking water; irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages; and commercial and industrial use.

- **Principles for setting target attribute states** – target attribute states (TAS) set desired outcomes for each measure. Council invited feedback on the planning principles for setting target attribute states.
- **Environmental actions** – environmental actions are those methods, programs and initiatives that can be adopted to help achieve the long term visions and environmental outcomes. Good ideas, new technologies and developing industry practices can all contribute to improvements. An opportunity to provide suggestions was given (particularly at the workshops) ahead of setting targets for attributes and setting limits on resource use.

General consultation approach

Aiming for best practice engagement, the engagement project used the IAP2 spectrum for public participation which was reflected in its design, engagement methods and tools. For this phase, the 'involve' level of participation was chosen and is highlighted below:

Level of participation: Inform

- What it means: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- The Council's Promise to the community: We will keep you informed.

Level of participation: Consult

- What it means: To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- The Council's Promise to the community: We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge your concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Level of participation: Involve (Chosen approach)

- **What it means: To work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.**
- **The Council's Promise to the community: We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how the public influenced the decision.**

Level of participation: Collaborate

- What it means: To partner with the community in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- The Council's Promise to the community: We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Communication and engagement channels

The material involved in this phase of the project is complex owing to the multifaceted nature of freshwater, environmental science and freshwater policy. The engagement was supported by the development of resources and educational material to ensure that responders were well equipped and appropriately informed to participate.

This included:

- the preparation of 11 technical memos setting out the technical environmental science for freshwater across the region;
- the preparation of six discussion documents (one for each FMU); and
- the preparation of a consultation website to house the material, provide high level context and facilitate engagement through the different channels.

The response channels used in this consultation were:

- **Iwi pou taiao** – a series of hui with pou taiao (iwi environmental staff) from across ngā Iwi o Taranaki (the iwi of Taranaki) both informed the development of provisions and approach as well as contributed feedback to the Council. Working with iwi pou taiao is part of the Council's broader approach to partnering with tangata whenua and is an ongoing part of the Council's Plan development process and as well as being essential for the Council to uphold Te Tiriti/Treaty of Waitangi obligations under the Crown. Seeking the input from tangata whenua is also a requirement of the NPS-FM. Under this agreement, the Council has received a number of position papers, has worked closely with pou taiao in the drafting of the Te Mana o te Wai objective, presented the environmental science informing discussion documents and sought feedback on the visions, values and environmental outcomes. Feedback for this stage of the project was provided in hui as well as through collaborative online ideas boards.
- **Special Interest Group (SIG) workshops and Community workshops** – SIG workshops were held with four groups of representatives from the following sectors: Primary Industries; Advocacy and NGO; Government and Commerce and Industry. These workshops provided the opportunity for discussions across all FMUs. Approximately 50 people attended these workshops. Six other FMU specific workshops were held with the community at various locations including Otakeho, Stratford, Inglewood and Hāwera and were attended by 35 people.

Approximately six to nine Council staff were present at each workshop from policy, science and communications departments. The team were available to deliver presentation, support attendees and answer any questions raised. Staff also facilitated breakout groups and ensured that the topic of conversation was well understood and contextualised. At each workshop, maps were available of the FMU(s) and there was time at the beginning and end of the workshops to look at these in detail. All workshops were managed by a facilitator who was responsible for logistics and timekeeping. Discussion documents containing background and policy and science information relevant to this engagement (which were also made available in advance of the workshops) was offered at each workshop and attendees were invited to take these home with them to read over and share.

Each workshop began with an introduction from the facilitator which was then followed by a breakdown of the NPS-FM scientific requirements (including trends, monitoring and modelling) by the Science and Technology Manager. The Council's Senior Policy Analyst – Regional Planning Lead then took the workshop attendees through each of the main topics that were open for engagement. Both the local government and the Taranaki context were discussed and the internal processes for how each topic was being approached was shared with the room. Questions were accepted at all times and answered if the information was available or followed up following the workshop. There was a

'parking lot' for questions that were beyond the scope of these workshops and questions were logged to be answered at a later stage.

Attendees at these workshops were invited to contribute in the following ways:

- provide an indication of the level of agreement or disagreement with draft statements and objectives by placement of a tick or coloured sticker (green for agree, black for disagree and orange for undecided). Participants were invited to place one sticker per clause where multiple clauses existed.
 - provide freeform comment on any of draft objectives or statements.
 - the same process as with the SIG workshops was followed but with a more community-centric focus at the community workshops, rather than sector-specific.
- **Written submissions** – seven bespoke submissions were made by individuals or organisations via email and hard copy correspondence. Respondents had the opportunity to make free-form submissions as desired which provided greater detail than could be achieved through the online survey.
 - **Online survey (Taranaki Regional Council)** – 144 surveys were completed by respondents via the Council's website. Survey respondents could contribute by providing an indication of the degree to which they agreed or disagreed with draft statements, as well as freeform comments to elaborate on the reasons for agreement or disagreement.

There were six versions of the survey (one for each FMU). All surveys contained identical questions except the localisation to the relevant FMU, and respondents could answer up to 30 questions.

- **Online survey (Fish and Game)** – Fish and Game conducted an independent online survey, with their members, on the matters raised in the consultation document and provided the additional 113 individual survey responses to the Council. Fish and Game survey respondents were provided with a series of statements (developed by Fish and Game) and invited to indicate "yes" or "no" to show their level of support for that statement.

The statements in the Fish and Game survey reflected the freshwater values for the region, however did not introduce the specific wording being tested by the Council for each of the relevant environmental outcomes.

- **Social media comments** – five individual comments were provided via Facebook.

Response demographics

Tables 1, 2 and 3 below show various demographic details about respondents by response channel.

The demographic breakdown figures for each response channel are noted as either typical (specified average for that channel) or specific (specified by respondents). Where available figures for the Taranaki region as a whole are provided for comparison purposes.

Data on place of residence was collected via the online survey and respondents were asked which FMU they lived in and as FMUs do not align with district boundaries, Taranaki district breakdown comparators are provided for reference only (**Table 1**).

Table 1: FMU of residence

FMU or district	Online survey TRC (%)	Social media (%)	Community and SIG workshops and hui	Written submission	Taranaki district of residence (%)
Data type	Specific	Typical	Data not collected	Data not collected	Specific
Volcanic Ring Plain	58				
Southern Hill Country	7				
Northern Hill Country	14				
Coastal Terraces	10				
Pātea	15				
Waitara	18				
Not specified	23				
New Plymouth district		66			69
South Taranaki district		14			23
Stratford district		10			8
Out of district		9			n/a
TOTAL	100	100			

Table 2: Respondent age

	Online survey TRC (%)	Social media (%)	Community and SIG workshops and hui	Written submissions	Age of Taranaki residents (%)
Age in years	Specific	Typical	Data not collected	Data not collected	
<18 years	0				34
19-24 years	3	4			16
25-65 years	70	91			46
65+	21	5			6
Prefer not to say	34				
TOTAL	100	100			

Table 3: Respondent gender

	Online survey TRC (%)	Social media (%)	Community and SIG workshops and hui	Written submissions	Gender Taranaki residents (%)
Data type	Specific	Typical	Data not collected	Data not collected	
Male	33	37			50
Female	33	63			50
Not specified	34				

TOTAL		100			
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Tables 4 and 5 below provide the campaign success results. Of note, special interest group workshops were attended by approximately 50 people representing around 40 organisations. Public workshops were attended by approximately 35 people.

Table 4: No of submissions or events.

	No. submissions or events
Online survey	144
Written submissions	5
Social media	6
Public workshops	5
Special Interest Group workshops	4

Table 5: Message reach by channel.

	Message reach
Website	2,301
Email	10,299
Social media	13,353
Advertising (Farming First)	25,000
TOTAL*	50,953

** The reach number is cumulative across channels and accordingly includes duplicates where individuals saw messages on more than one channel*

Challenges and observations

Through the course of the engagement, Council staff noted a number of unanticipated challenges. These challenges do not substantively affect the reliability or value of the outcomes of the consultation but are noted for completeness and to assist future engagement projects.

Discussion documents were created by the Council to provide the community with an understanding of the NPS-FM and the Taranaki context. Being familiar with the discussion documents would help inform people in their responses and as such people were encouraged to read the documents. It was evident from survey responses that in some cases these documents had not been read prior to feedback being provided.

For example, some responders did not see the explanations provided on target attribute states, limits and baselines which meant that comments made in that context were difficult for the Council to respond to. Feedback requested further detail which was often available in the consultation documents. This meant that, at times, those who responded via survey missed opportunities to provide targeted feedback.

Facebook was an effective tool in promoting participation with the survey, however, it took responders directly to the survey rather than referencing the broader documents. Clearly referencing the discussion documents at the beginning of the survey may improve the accessibility of the supporting information to help inform future responses.

The length of the survey was also a concern and some responders lost interest towards the latter questions. Some also identified with the use of technical language as a challenge. This is likely to be a perennial problem with freshwater consultation, given the technical requirements of the NPSFM.

Te Mana o te Wai

Te Mana o te Wai is the central concept underpinning the NPS-FM 2020 and refers to the fundamental importance of water and the connection all New Zealanders have with it. It recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment and the community. It recognises the relationship that all people have with freshwater and in particular it recognises the relationship that tangata whenua have with wai (water) through whakapapa (genealogy, familial relationship through heritage) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

In addition to the three statutory elements underpinning Te Mana o te Wai (the concept, the hierarchy of obligations and the guiding principles³), the Council must prepare an objective that says how the concept of Te Mana o te Wai will be given effect to in Taranaki. The objective will be included in the Regional Policy Statement and all other freshwater decisions must give effect to this objective.

Draft Te Mana o te Wai objective:

Through partnership with tangata whenua and the community, Te Mana o te Wai will be given effect to

by:

- a) recognising and providing for the mana motuhake, manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga of tangata whenua partners in management and decision making on freshwater;*
- b) strengthening the relationships between wai (water), whenua (land) and all people and, for tangata whenua o Taranaki, affirming and strengthening the enduring, integral whakapapa relationships;*
- c) upholding, protecting, and restoring the mauri, health, and well-being of wai and waterbodies for current and future generations;*
- d) acknowledging and responding to the unique whakapapa of waterbodies; and*
- e) providing for waterbodies to behave [naturally] as they wish;*

so that the interconnectedness of wai, whenua and taiao continue to support and perpetuate life.

Figure 1 shows the results of the 130 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 57% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

³ For more information about Te Mana o te Wai, visit:

<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Publications/Files/essential-freshwater-te-mana-o-te-wai-factsheet.pdf>

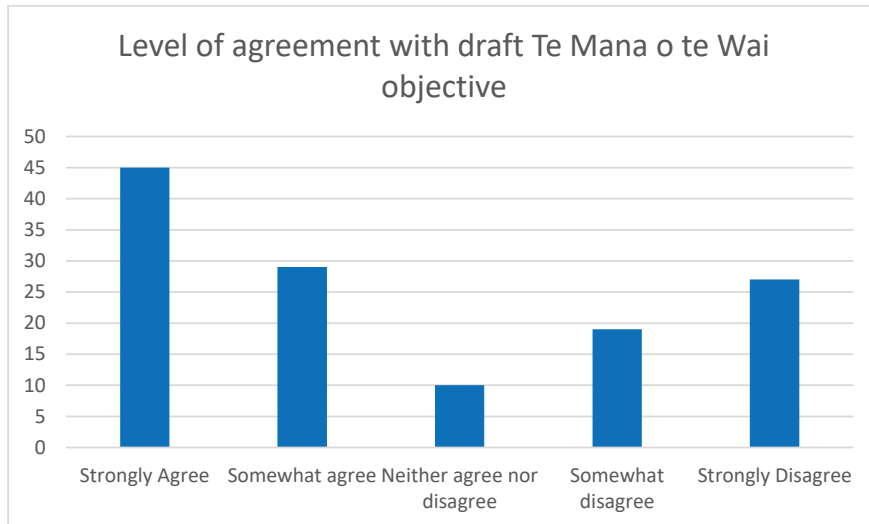


Figure 1: Counts of survey responses to the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective.

Key themes

- **Vital importance of water** – the vast majority of feedback agreed with general direction of the objective and recognised the vital importance of water, preserving waterways, protecting them from pollution and maintaining their natural balance. In addition, the recognition of connections between land, water and people were highlighted as important. Feedback reflected concern about pollution of water bodies stemming from various sources such as agricultural practices, industrial outputs and forestry. In particular, impacts on swimmability reducing recreation safety were highlighted. A few responders considered that the objective as drafted was too ambitious.
- **Barriers to understanding** – while a number of responders praised the use of te reo (Māori language) and recognition of te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview) in the objective, others struggled with the use of te reo throughout and unfamiliar concepts such as ‘mauri’ (life principle, life force, vital essence), ‘whakapapa’ (genealogy, familial relationship through heritage), ‘mana motuhake’ (autonomy, self-government, self-determination, independence), ‘wai’ (water) etc. While some of these concerns were alleviated in face-to-face sessions through explanation, it was more difficult for those participating online who could not ask questions. A number of responders felt this was a significant barrier to them understanding and participating in the feedback process while others preferred to see the objective re-drafted in English only. Feedback emphasised:
 - **Mana motuhake** – (clause (a)) not well understood by majority of responders and no clear context provided in NPS-FM raising concerns. Recognition that online translations may be different to local context.
 - **Whakapapa of waterbodies** – (clause (d)) a difficult concept for a lot of non-Māori who more understand this concept to be human familiar relationships/ancestry.
- **Implementation approach** – while many were comfortable with the objective at face value, many responders indicated interest/concern in how the objective would be achieved in practice and how it may affect different industries, water uses or other activities. Responders were keen to see greater detail sit

beneath the objective to understand how it may practically affect industry and current practices. In particular, feedback highlighted concerns over economic impacts and costs to individuals. Some were worried about the financial burden that may be placed on certain groups like farmers and industry to implement water management strategies. Funding and appropriate timeframes were put forward as options for implementation of water management strategies.

- **Partnership with tangata whenua** – the importance of Māori in water management was generally acknowledged and supported, recognising alignment with other similar approaches e.g. Kaupapa Māori framework. Some recognised opportunities for integrating Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge systems) into policy and decision making. Others recognised the need to promote and support shared discussions across tangata whenua, land owners, industry and the broader community and some suggested community governance boards or other similar localised decision groups to promote shared community conversations and decision making. Other responders expressed concern over the perceived emphasis or potential imbalance in favour of Māori views in freshwater management.
- **Stewardship** – a large number of responders considered that the draft objective was missing recognition of the principles of stewardship, governance and care and respect (as included in the NPS-FM). Responders sought that the objective include these in the context of the broader Taranaki community noting that all have a role and part to play in water management and decision making. A number of comments also considered that land owners have enhanced responsibilities under stewardship which should be acknowledged.
- **Representation** – similar to the above comments on ‘Stewardship’ a number of responders considered that the objective generally could be improved to be more reflective of the relationships that all people have with water, inclusive of families and communities.
- **Hierarchy of obligations** – some responders noted disagreement with the relative priority stated in the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations. Others considered that the objective as drafted, focused too heavily on the first tier of the hierarchy and others requested greater specificity be introduced as it relates to the third tier of the hierarchy to direct decisions for competing uses, particularly in restrictive situations for example, during drought.
- **Natural behaviours of waterbodies** – a number of responders supported recognising and responding to the natural behaviours and characteristics of waterbodies (clause (e)) while others were concerned that this clause would require retrospective action with regards to flood protection structures (or even require their removal) and unreasonably prohibit use of water for food production, social and other economic purposes.
- **Food supply** – the potential impact of freshwater decisions on food production and supply was acknowledged by some, with some requests to explicitly reference food production to ensure that it is provided for and to provide clarity to the relationship with clause (e) and need for waterbodies to behave naturally. Others recognised the opportunities for kai sovereignty (food sovereignty) that could be achieved as a result of improved freshwater outcomes.
- **Effects of climate change** – a number of responders commented on the relationship between the draft objective and potential future impacts of climate change. In particular, questioning how climate change may affect waterbodies natural behaviour (clause (e)).

Long-term visions for freshwater

The NPS-FM requires all regional councils to prepare an objective for each freshwater management unit that identifies the long-term aspirations for freshwater within that FMU. This is also termed a long-term vision. Long-term visions must be ambitious but also achievable and must also identify a timeframe for achievement of the vision.

Following an initial engagement process March/April 2021 where the Council sought advice on what the community wanted to see achieved for Freshwater across the region, this round of engagement tested draft long-term vision objectives for each FMU.

The draft visions, which followed a similar format, encapsulate what freshwater could look like in the future for each FMU. The Pātea Catchment FMU vision is provided as an example below.

In addition to general feedback indicating the level of support that responders had to the draft wording, engagement also sought direction on FMU specificities in order to enhance the individuality of each vision as appropriate to the FMU.

In the Pātea Catchment Freshwater Management Unit:

1. *freshwater and the effects of activities on freshwater are managed to give effect to te Mana o te Wai;*
2. *the journey of freshwater, from numerous springs on Taranaki Maunga and the eastern hill country down through the Pātea Estuary to the Tasman sea, sustain the life force and mauri of the environment and reflect their natural variability and natural form and character;*
3. *the waters of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and Conservation Lands are protected and celebrated as waters which behave in accordance with their natural character;*
4. *water bodies, including riparian margins, wetlands and lakes, groundwater and surrounding habitats, support diverse, abundant and connected ecosystems and the resilience of indigenous and threatened species;*
5. *the mana of tangata whenua and their traditional and ongoing relationships with wai are restored through mahinga kai and the practice of mātauranga Māori;*
6. *land use and freshwater practices improve freshwater quality so that ecosystem health and human health needs are provided for and protected by:*
 - a) *taking into account historical cumulative effects of intensive land use on the environment; and*
 - b) *being responsive to the current and future effects of climate change;*
7. *strong and resilient biodiversity provide for the sustainable harvest of mahinga kai, rongoa and fish;*
8. *Lake Rotorangi is maintained in an excellent state for human contact and other water bodies, in particular primary contact sites, are safe for swimming, mahinga kai and other customary and recreational purposes; and*
9. *hydro-electric power generation at the Pātea Dam provides clean and renewable energy while ensuring that environmental and community values continue to be provided for and improved;*

by the year (date tbc).

Community consultation focused on providing opportunities for responders to:

- indicate their level of agreement/disagreement with the draft objectives and reasons for their stated position
- identify additional elements that could be recognised in a long-term vision objective
- provide feedback about wording changes that would better give effect to their views.

In addition to this, some responders also provided recommendations for actions and opportunities available in each FMU to assist in achieving the various vision elements.

Figure 2 shows the results of the 130 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 62% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

Overall, feedback received for all six long-term visions was generally supportive and positive. **Table 6** confirms this trend, however it is noted that the Southern Hill Country FMU received a higher portion of responders disagreeing with the draft objective than those agreeing with it.

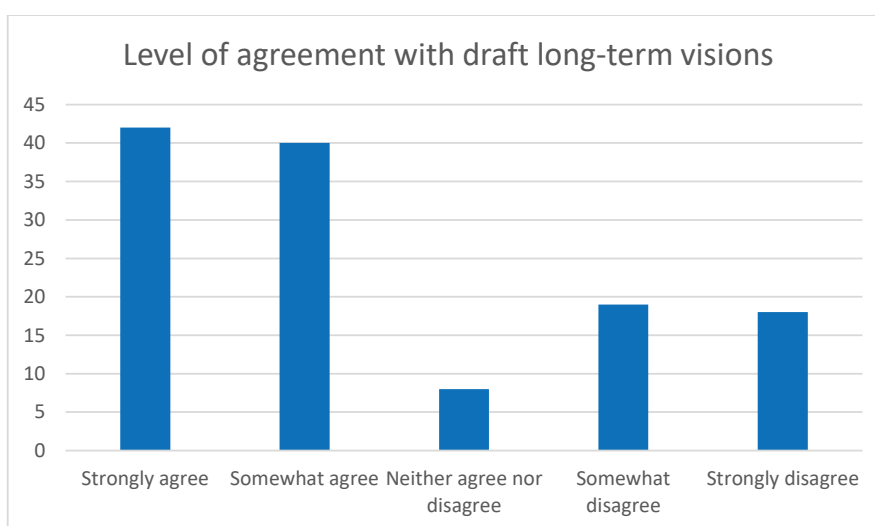


Figure 2: Counts of survey responses to the draft long-term visions, consolidating all FMU responses.

Table 6: Counts of survey responses to the draft long-term vision objectives, broken down by FMU.

	Southern Hill Country	Coastal Terraces	Pātea Catchment	Volcanic Ring Plain	Waitara Catchment	Northern Hill Country
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	4	5	5	14	9	5
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	4	0	1	23	7	5
<i>Neutral</i>	0	1	1	5	0	1
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	4	2	2	5	3	3
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	6	0	1	7	1	3

There was strong backing for the overarching intention of the vision to improve freshwater quality. Both requests for alterations and support for provisions were received and people had questions about the achievability of the long-term vision. Feedback was generally consistent across FMU and has been summarised into key themes. However, where comments were particular to one or more FMU these have been identified within the theme that they relate.

Key themes

- **FMU differences** – some responders signalled that waterbodies and their resulting sensitivities differ across FMUs and requested that this be acknowledged, particularly in response to clause (2). Examples of this included how the Northern and Southern Hill Country FMUs are particularly sensitive to sediment and erosion, the Waitara FMU’s individual sub-catchments are widely diverse, and that Lake Herengawe in the Coastal Terraces FMU has particularly sensitive ecological values. Numerous responders signalled that groundwater should be explicitly discussed and that catchments be identified as relevant to the FMU within the long-term vision. Additionally, some feedback wished to see the acknowledgment of how different rainfall patterns affect FMUs and their catchments.
- **FMU use and industry** – similar to the above theme, responders generally sought more nuanced representation of the different interests and uses at play within each FMU, particularly focusing on the different land and freshwater uses occurring in each FMU, such the Southern Hill Country FMU including more intensive land uses in the Tāngāhoe catchment in contrast to the forestry and conservation features in the Waitōtara catchment. Another responder noted that dry-stock and beef farming are prominent activities in the majority of the FMUs (with the exception of the Coastal Terraces FMU). Further feedback signalled that land and freshwater uses including horticulture, food production and renewable energy systems (similar to feedback on Te Mana o te Wai). Certain responders expressed their desire for these land uses to be recognised as mitigation options for improving the health of the environment and the well-being of the community. This type of feedback was received particularly in relation to clause (2) but also applied across the board.
- **Infrastructure vs the natural behaviours of water** – as with the concerns raised in Te Mana o te Wai for ‘natural behaviours of waterbodies’, a number of responders reiterated their concerns for what vision clause (2) may mean for existing infrastructure. Examples given included: infrastructure that may modify the natural variability and natural form and character of waterbodies, for example, bush clearance, wetland drainage, piping, re-alignment and flood protection structures. One responder questioned how this cause would apply to situations such as the Ngāere swamp which has experienced significant drainage and loss of natural character. Additionally, responders wanted to know how flood protection would be ensured and whether the current drafting may be at odds with necessary flood protection work that may alter the water’s natural journey.
- **Conservation lands** – while there was overall support for uplifting and promoting conservation lands in the different FMUs, some responders asked for clarification on the intent of clause (3) and what this would look like from a management standpoint. A number of responders questioned what it would mean for these areas to be ‘celebrated’ through policy implementation and what the knock-on effects would be further down the catchments. Additionally, there were suggestions for other areas that were not included in clause (3) to be uplifted and promoted in the same way.
- **Barriers to understanding** – a number of responders identified that they had problems understanding the intent of the visions. This feedback was generally reflected in two areas:
 - **Use of reo terms** – as with Te Mana o te Wai, many responders praised the use of te reo (Māori language) and recognition of te Ao Māori (the Māori worldview) in the long-term vision. Others struggled with the use of te reo throughout and unfamiliar concepts such as ‘rongoa’, ‘mauri’ and ‘mahinga kai’. Some responders requested that the clause be redrafted entirely in English, however the majority of responders raising this issue preferred for additional context to be included such as definitions to support their understanding of the clause.

- **Uncertain qualifiers** – other barriers included ambiguous terminology that could be defined in multiple ways. This feedback often referred towards verbs such as ‘restored’ and whilst some were supportive of its inclusion, others requested a solid definition to be included or for the wording to be changed to avoid misinterpretation. Other responders questioned what ‘land and freshwater practices’ was referring to in clause (6).
- **Relationship between land use and freshwater quality** – the inter-dependence between water providing for land use and the role of a land use in looking after the environment was evident in a number of responses. ‘Reasonable use’ was flagged to acknowledge the benefits that some activities have to communities and economic-well-being. A small portion of responders were concerned that the wording of clause (6) meant that only land use that improves freshwater quality would be authorised going forward. Some responders noted their desire for land uses activities and particular industries, to be explicitly provided for and recognition of approaches to enable/support such industries during times of pressure on resources (e.g. drought). Suggestions included collaboration and catchment management approaches.
- **Cumulative effects** – regarding clause (6), common feedback sought to remove ‘historical’ and focus on past, current and future cumulative effects in order to be more ambitious and encompassing. A desire for a stronger intent in this clause was also noted. Recommendations were made to broaden the scale of monitoring, such as around well-known mahinga kai sites and around Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki to enable more informed assessments.
- **Shared responsibilities** – many responders requested clarification on the scope of clause (6) and what land use and freshwater practices were intended to be included. Some people were concerned that this was too focused on the rural sector and did not address wider industry and urban development practices and their impacts. A few responders requested that these be explicitly acknowledged in order to reflect that the whole community has a role to play in improvement, not just the rural sector.
- **Swimming and contact recreation** – for clause (8) in particular, multiple responses from both tangata whenua and the wider community, indicated that, while they agreed with the intent of aspirations for contact recreation and swimming opportunities, there were activities, water uses and specific locations that were not explicitly recognised and were missing from the clause itself. For the Pātea FMU, responders questioned why only Lake Rotorangi was included.
- **Biodiversity** – large amounts of feedback were received across the suite of clauses relating to biodiversity. Wetlands were a prominent focus and responders were looking for a clearer indication of the wetlands that would be within scope. Tangata whenua highlighted concerns around clause (4) where ‘resilience’ of indigenous and threatened species may not be ambitious enough and requested that the clause be elevated to see these to be ‘thriving’ and/or ‘flourishing’ in the future. Multiple responses requested the inclusion of ‘healthy ecosystems’ and the introduction of ‘valued introduced species’ with a particular emphasis on ‘trout’ as well as ‘ducks’ and ‘rare birds’ getting a mention.
- **Conflicting aspirations** – while there was general support for the intent of the clauses concerning biodiversity, mahinga kai and recreational use, feedback suggests tension between the values themselves. For example where one value may require protection (e.g. biodiversity) and another value results in its harvest (e.g. mahinga kai/fishing). Similar feedback revealed concerns around biodiversity aspirations potentially being at odds with economic and human health needs.

- **Tangata whenua interactions with freshwater** – There was mixed feedback on the recognition and provision of tangata whenua interactions with freshwater. Positive feedback focusing on clauses (5) and (7) supported the explicit recognition and provision of Māori freshwater values. Various comments suggested alterations to the form and drafting of these clauses to simplify them and set them up as more general goals rather than explicitly referencing the activities themselves. The main concern being that the current wording may be too restrictive, limiting tangata whenua to certain activities. A small number of responders mentioned that sites would need to be identified where these practices most commonly occur in order to enable their effective implementation. Questions were also asked around how cultural practices, such as mahinga kai, and biodiversity needs can both be promoted without negatively affecting each other. Another area of concern was received over the way that cultural harvesting may be managed in comparison to commercial/recreational harvesting. Feedback around clause (5) showed some responders' concern around whether 'relationships' meant allowing for public access across private land. Some felt the clause didn't acknowledge that all people have a relationship to water and was too imbalanced. A desire was expressed by multiple responders for further context and explanation around the process of partnership and joint decision making. Tangata whenua (through pou taiao) expressed their desire to be involved in providing broader context and refining the intent of clause (5) and further sought that the implementation of visions be undertaken through active participation with monitoring, testing, and the ability to practice kaitiakitanga. Additionally, a small percentage of wider community feedback described concerns surrounding the limitations of the mahinga kai clauses seeing it as limited and not recognising other forms of non-cultural harvesting.
- **Implementation approach and achievability** – despite the general support for the overall intent of the visions, there was concern from responders around the practicality and economic and social impact of the visions when put into practice. Similar to the feedback for Te Mana o te Wai, responders were eager to see the detail of what could sit behind the visions and how they could be implemented. Some expressed concerns about the financial burden that may be placed on certain groups, such as farmers and industry. Some suggested that to alleviate pressure, the Council could consider funding options or transitional/staged approaches over appropriate timeframes. Other concerns were flagged around the economic impacts to both users and other management agencies (e.g. district councils and Department of Conservation) were highlighted by a number of responders. Some considered that current state of freshwater is having a negative economic impact on the community (for example from declining water quality deterring visitors from coming). Feedback also recognised economic benefits can arise from improved water quality outcomes. It was argued by numerous responders that for some waterbodies to meet the swimmability and mahinga kai standards, there would need to be vast improvement which may not be realistic (examples included Lake Rotokare and its conflict of being a wildlife sanctuary and the Waitara River's fluctuating water quality). Technology was highlighted as necessary to be able to achieve the long-term visions and the availability of the technology was expressed as an issue for some responders. Concerns were raised by a small number of responders around a possible 'shifting baseline' syndrome and no specific limits being set within the visions themselves.
- **Timeframes** – although not specifically an engagement question, a few responders provided their views in bespoke submissions and through the workshops. The suggestions included using an 80 year timeframe similar to the Waikato region's approach, the use of interim timeframes, and noting that short term approaches would be for 10 years, generational 2050 and long-term 2100.

Freshwater values and environmental outcomes

The NPS-FM uses the term values to refer to important aspects of freshwater that need to be considered and provided for when setting targets and limits. Freshwater must be managed to protect compulsory freshwater values and other values present within the FMU. *Compulsory values* (NPS-FM Appendix 1A) are those required to be addressed through the NOF: **ecosystem health, human contact, threatened species and mahinga kai**. *Other values that must be considered* (NPS-FM Appendix 1B) should be assessed, and, if relevant to an FMU, taken through the NOF process: **natural form and character, drinking water supply, wai tapu, transport and tauranga waka, fishing, hydro-electric power generation, animal drinking water, irrigation, cultivation and the production of food and vegetables, and commercial and industrial use**.

All regional councils are required by the NPS-FM to consult with their communities to identify environmental outcomes (set as objectives) for each value within an FMU. The future regional freshwater plan must set out an environmental outcome that describes the desired state for water bodies in that FMU. The policies, rules and consenting process will be set up to give effect to and achieve these objectives.

This section of the report summarises community feedback from all response channels regarding the identification of both the compulsory and other values and their associated environmental outcomes. While environmental outcomes are drafted for each FMU, much of the feedback aligned across FMUs or was made generally (to apply to the whole region). Key themes have therefore been identified for each environmental outcome to summarise the feedback across all six FMUs. Where feedback was intentionally FMU specific this has been identified.

Ecosystem health

As stated in the NPS-FM, this value refers to the extent to which an FMU or part of an FMU supports an ecosystem appropriate to the type of water body (for example, river, lake, wetland, or aquifer). There are five biophysical components that contribute to freshwater ecosystem health and it is necessary that all of them are managed. They are:

Water quality – the physical and chemical measures of the water such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, suspended sediment, nutrients and toxicants.

Water quantity – the extent and variability in the level or flow of water.

Habitat – the physical form, structure and extent of the water body, its bed, banks and margins; its riparian vegetation; and its connections to the floodplain and to groundwater.

Aquatic life – the abundance and diversity of biota including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish and birds.

Ecological processes – the interactions among biota and their physical and chemical environment such as primary production, decomposition, nutrient cycling and trophic connectivity.

In a healthy waterbody, all five biophysical components are suitable to sustain ecosystem health in the absence of human disturbance or alteration (before providing for other values).

This value applies to all FMUs. The ecosystem health environmental outcome for the Pātea Catchment FMU is shown below as an example.

Environmental conditions ensure that ecosystems within the Pātea Catchment FMU are healthy and resilient to seasonal variations, the impacts of climate change and the effects of land and freshwater use by achieving the following:

- a) *Water Quality: the physical and chemical measures of freshwater including appropriate light penetration and nutrient and oxygen concentrations ensure the healthy functioning of ecosystems;*
- b) *Water Quantity: the extent and variability in the level and flow of freshwater:*
 - i. *maintains the hydrological connectivity;*
 - ii. *maintains and improves aquatic habitats;*
 - iii. *provides for life stages of aquatic biodiversity;*
 - iv. *supports terrestrial habitats; and*
 - v. *ensures appropriate nutrient cycling;*
- c) *Habitat: the natural and physical form, structure and extent of water bodies are protected and improved from their current state to ensure the preservation of aquatic habitats and indigenous aquatic ecosystems;*
- d) *Aquatic Life: healthy communities of microbes, invertebrates, plants and fish are found throughout and identified pest species are managed to reduce their impact on aquatic life;*
- e) *Ecological Processes: the well-functioning interactions between water bodies (hydrology and physical-chemical characteristics), their surrounding environments (landscapes, geology and climate) and their biota are recognised and provided for.*

Figure 3 shows the results of the 122 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 83% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

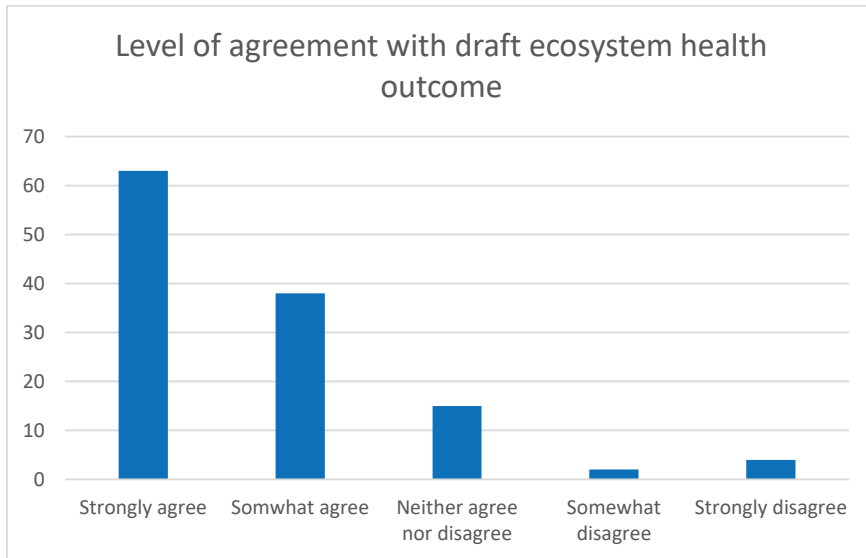


Figure 3: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for ecosystem health, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Recognising natural processes** – a large proportion of the feedback focused on the degree or level of achievement that would be appropriate within each FMU, requesting that the outcome be linked to or recognise what could reasonably be expected given existing natural processes (such as geology, topography, water chemistry etc.). A similar sentiment was expressed by some responders who recognised that certain FMU/catchments were more susceptible to adverse environmental impacts because of naturally occurring processes. Sediment in the Waitara, Southern and Northern Hill Country FMUs were particularly highlighted in relation to clause (a) water quality, and to a lesser degree (e) ecological processes due to elevated sediment levels.
- **Indigenous species** – responders questioned what was intended with the reference to indigenous species in clause (c) [Habitat] and whether it would require indigenous vegetation to be introduced or riparian planting to be native only. Responders noted that few Taranaki ecosystems currently are solely indigenous.
- **Pest species** – primarily with regard to clause (d) [Aquatic life], responders questioned what classified as a pest species and who would determine the list. The regional pest management plan was flagged as a relevant tool that could be linked. A number of responders recognised that some species aren't technically pests but may be having a profound negative impact on ecosystem health and may restrict the ability to achieve the outcome if not addressed.
- **Protection and enhancement of ecological and biological values** – a number of edits were sought across the draft outcomes to strengthen the level of protection being sought for ecological and biological values. These requests were:
 - to include references to wetlands
 - to ensure that in clause (a) [Water quality] improvements are linked to increased ecosystem health/biodiversity
 - provide protection for unique dune lakes in the Coastal Terraces FMU

- ensure that clause (b) [Water quantity] provides for all stages of aquatic biodiversity
 - require that (clause (c) [Habitats] ensure the preservation and restoration of healthy aquatic habitats
 - require that clause (e) [Ecological processes] are 'protected' in addition to being recognised and provided for.
- **Assessing achievement** – some responders asked if there was enough information to determine achievement/progress towards the ecosystem health objective, in particular highlighting clause (d) aquatic life. Particular concern related to the Southern Hill Country FMU as potentially having data gaps. Another responder noted the importance of using appropriate species and those sensitive to changes, to monitor and give the best indication of progress.
 - **Cost of implementation** – a number of responders were concerned about the costs of implementation and requirements to sit behind environmental outcome statement and requested a fair and reasonable test to be applied.

Human Contact

As stated in the NPS-FM, this value refers to the extent to which an FMU or part of an FMU supports people being able to connect with the water through a range of activities like swimming, waka, boating, fishing, mahinga kai and water skiing, in a range of different flows or levels. Matters to take into account include pathogens, water clarity, deposited sediment, plant growth (from macrophytes to periphyton to phytoplankton), cyanobacteria, other toxicants, and litter.

This value applies to all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.⁴

Human connections to waterbodies are provided for, by:

- a) protecting Lake Rotorangi as a primary contact site that already supports safe and appealing interactions with freshwater;*
- b) facilitating opportunities for safe contact at primary contact sites, particularly in summer; and*
- c) reducing the overall risk to human health throughout the Pātea Catchment FMU.*

Figure 4 shows the results of the 116 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 81% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

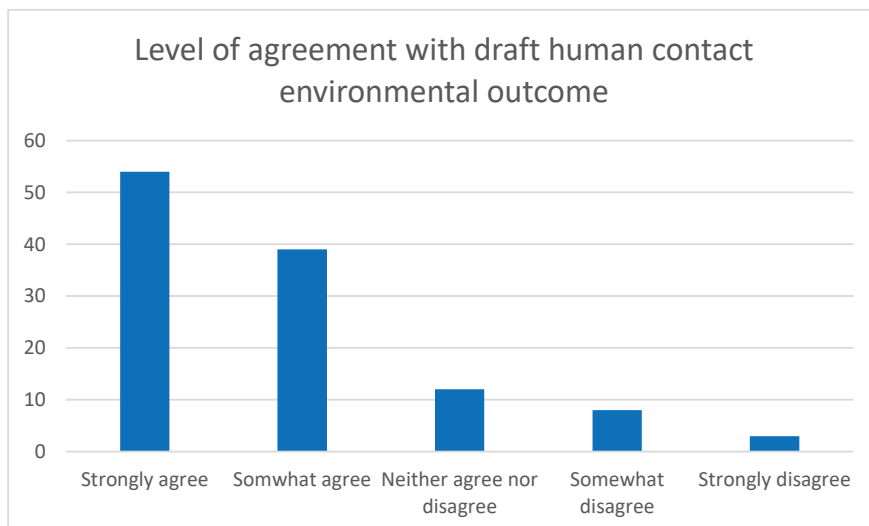


Figure 4: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for human contact, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Greater ambition** – responders were largely supportive of the direction that this environmental outcome was heading. A number of people signalled that the goal needs to be more ambitious to meet their expectations. There were a number of requests for additional verbs such as ‘maintaining’ and ‘restoring’ to be included to better look after primary contact sites. ‘Facilitating opportunities’ was discussed as not going

⁴ Primary contact sites were identified within the FMU discussion documents as an appendix and can be found at the bottom of [this webpage](#).

far enough to meet tangata whenua expectations by iwi pou taiao. A few other responders agreed with this sentiment and suggested 'increasing' or 'ensuring' as more ambitious directives. For the final clause, feedback from a number of responders suggested that 'reducing' the human health risk didn't go far enough with a continuous improvement towards achieving 'acceptable' levels being the preferred approach.

- **Safe interactions with water** – responders generally agreed with the importance of having safe contact with waterbodies. Alongside feedback requesting a more ambitious outcome as noted above, a number of responders expressed the desire for safe interactions with all waterbodies rather than just primary contact sites. Questions were raised around what types of safety were within the scope of this environmental outcome; a person's physical safety (e.g. safe access points), environmental safety and/or a person's health (e.g. healthy standard of water quality for contact).
- **Aesthetic value** – aesthetic value was identified as being important to some responders. Those who provided feedback around this signalled that interactions with water should be enjoyable and that water quality and water quantity has an effect on the aesthetic values of the waterbodies.
- **Spatial application** – feedback was received by a small number of people regarding specific spatial areas that they wished to be included, as was feedback questioning existing locations identified. General feedback indicated that all waterbodies across all FMUs should meet the environmental outcome. More specific feedback requested Lupton Lake be recognised for the Coastal Terraces FMU and Lake Rotorangi was questioned as the only location identified for the Pātea Catchment FMU.
- **Human health** – as with safe interactions, overall feedback was supportive of the intent of protecting human health. Recommendations were made by a substantial number of responders to focus more on the importance of improving the water quality to stop people getting sick. Some felt that reducing the risk of getting ill wouldn't necessarily correspond to reducing illness. Some pou taiao responded that 'reducing' did not meet their expectations however appreciated that the current state of the water meant that even 'reducing' was ambitious. Questions arose from wider community around what level of risk would be deemed acceptable and what management actions would be required to reduce the risk to human health.

Threatened Species

As stated in the NPS-FM, this value refers to the extent to which an FMU or part of an FMU that supports a population of threatened species has the critical habitats and conditions necessary to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of the threatened species. All the components of ecosystem health must be managed, as well as (if appropriate) specialised habitat or conditions needed for only part of the life cycle of the threatened species.

This value applies to all FMU. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.⁵

Wetlands, riparian margins and other critical habitats within the Pātea Catchment FMU promote the continued survival, natural migration and long-term recovery of threatened species.

Figure 5 shows the results of the 117 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 84% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

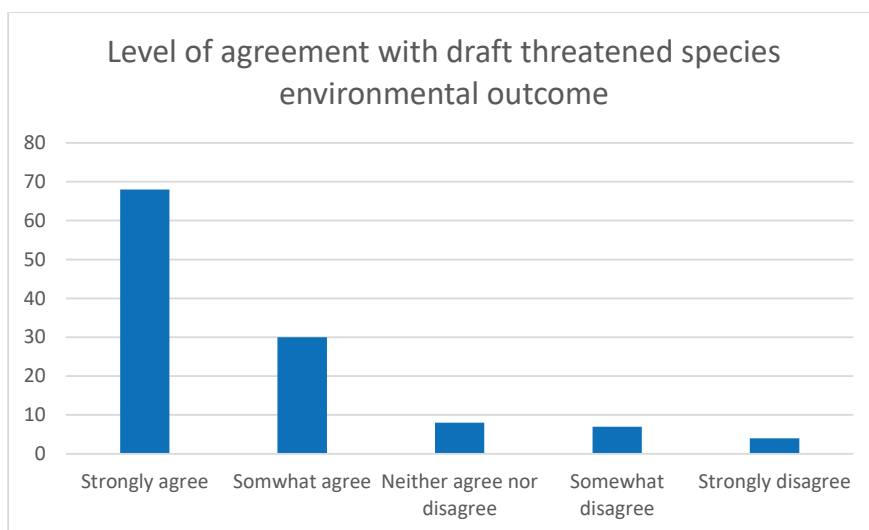


Figure 5: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for threatened species, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Strengthening the intention** – questions arose around the application of ‘promote’ and what it would be required to achieve it in this context. Suggestions were made to replace it for ‘protect’ which exemplifies stronger language and creates a more ambitious outcome. Other suggestions included ‘provide for’, ‘create’, ‘restore’, and ‘regulate’, particularly when stating the goal desired for habitats and wetlands. However, one responder believed that the intention was too strong and that biodiversity was already occurring naturally with no further intervention required.

⁵ Known freshwater dependent threatened species were identified within the FMU discussion documents as an appendix and can be found at the bottom of [this webpage](#).

- **Specification of species** – comments about both the lack of specific species and the narrow scope of only threatened species being included in this outcome were received. Some people wanted all valued species (such as trout) included rather than just threatened. Other feedback requested that species which are at risk or in decline also be incorporated. A small number of respondents stated they could not answer the question as they weren't aware of the applicable threatened species list (please note that this list was provided in each FMU discussion document). Confirmation of what wetlands were within the scope of this clause was sought by a couple of responders. One piece of feedback requested the explicit inclusion of dune lakes as areas important for threatened species in the outcome for the Coastal Terraces FMU.
- **Competing interests** – some responders raised questions around what happens when providing for one threatened species has a negative effect on a different threatened species. They were unsure how the outcome would handle this conflict and questioned which species would be prioritised. Another competing interest issue was the impact land and water uses can have on threatened species, and how this conflict would be considered to implement the outcome.
- **Monitoring concerns** – some responders had concerns about the way this outcome would be monitored as there are numerous ways to measure its success. Ideas such as using key indicator species monitoring and pest control were suggested as options that could be considered.

Mahinga kai

The NPS-FM expresses the value of mahinga kai as kai that is safe to harvest and eat. Mahinga kai generally refers to freshwater species that have traditionally been used as food, tools, or other resources. It also refers to the places those species are found and to the act of catching or harvesting them. Mahinga kai provide food for the people of the rohe (area) and these sites give an indication of the overall health of the water. For this value, kai would be safe to harvest and eat. Transfer of knowledge is able to occur about the preparation, storage and cooking of kai. In FMUs or parts of FMUs that are used for providing mahinga kai, the desired species are plentiful enough for long-term harvest and the range of desired species is present across all life stages.

Mahinga kai – Kei te ora te mauri is expressed in the NPS-FM as the mauri (life principle, life force, vital essence) of the place being intact. In FMUs or parts of FMUs that are valued for providing mahinga kai, customary resources are available for use, customary practices are able to be exercised to the extent desired, and tikanga (custom) and preferred methods are able to be practised.

This value applies to all FMU. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

Tangata whenua can safely practice mahinga kai, and sustainably harvest and consume species important to them for whānau and marae events, year-round within the Pātea Catchment FMU because:

- a) kaitiakitanga is exercised by tangata whenua according to their tikanga and customs, including while carrying out mahinga kai activities and practices;*
- b) waterways support a healthy, diverse and abundant range of mahinga kai species;*
- c) mahinga kai species can travel naturally throughout the catchments to complete necessary life stages;*
- d) habitat of mahinga kai species is thriving and flourishing (healthy and improving);*
- e) water quality and water quantity support healthy mahinga kai species and areas; and*
- f) whānau (all generations) can safely access mahinga kai sites, areas and waterbodies, and share knowledge and customs associated with mahinga kai.*

Figure 6 shows the results of the 125 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 63% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

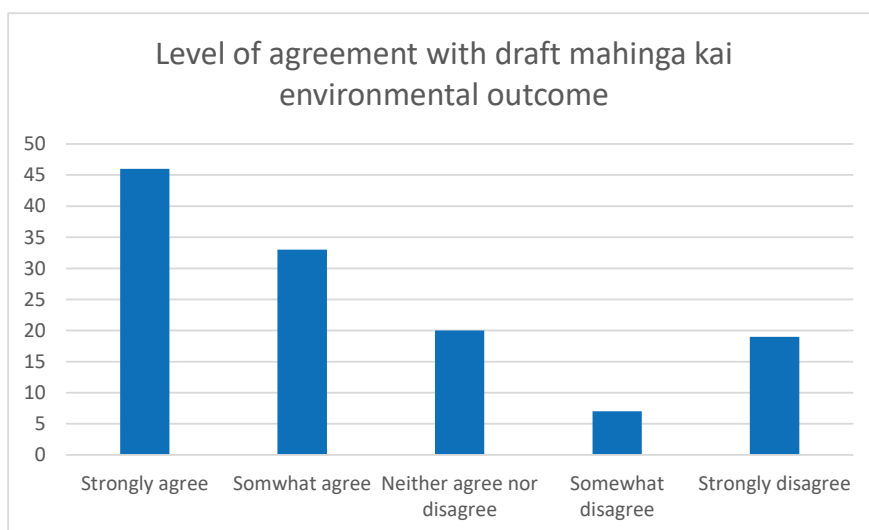


Figure 6: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for mahinga kai, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Building a picture of mahinga kai across Taranaki** – support was received from many responders regarding the overall intent of the outcome. Some pointed out that the Taranaki and FMU specific context would be necessary to add so that the outcome is understood and can be worked towards. Iwi pou taiao recognised that the types of important species would vary across mahinga kai sites and that while some of these areas may be known themselves by Post Settlement Government Entities,⁶ this knowledge is generally held at a marae, whānau or individual level. Requests were made by one community responder to broaden the scope of mahinga kai purposes to include a variety of other mahinga kai purposes, as well as to rephrase ‘year-round’ as not all species are harvestable at all times. In addition to this context, a small number of responders wanted to better understand how the standards set by this outcome would be reached – the parameters and monitoring protocols around ‘sustainable harvest’, ‘abundant’, ‘thriving’ and ‘flourishing’ were also questioned.
- **Property rights and working with land owners** – responders were curious as to what clause (f) considered ‘safe access’ and the impact this would have on private property rights. Some were concerned that the outcome would result in public access to private land. A suggestion was made to specify sites, similar to primary contact sites, where these practices could occur and to acknowledge that landowners and the wider community are involved in this outcome.
- **Tangata whenua and the wider community’s relationship with water** – similar to the comments received for Te Mana o te Wai, a number of responders felt that the outcome needed to acknowledge the rights of all people to collect and gather. Some responders hoped that knowledge could be shared with local communities around these waterbodies so that they could better appreciate the importance of mahinga kai practices and the wider values of the waterbodies. Collaboration between communities and coastal and fishing management agencies was also suggested as a tool to achieve this outcome. Another responder wanted to know how support could be offered where tikanga and customs have been impacted.
- **Sustainability of harvesting** – the community value sustainability when it comes to mahinga kai and wanted assurance that sustainable harvesting was going to be provided for. Fears around over-fishing and the consequences of this were signalled by a small number of responders. Questions were also raised around how the monitoring and management will ensure that harvesting is done sustainably.

⁶ The legal entities that result from Treaty of Waitangi Settlement processes.

Natural form and character

The NPS-FM expresses this value as the FMU or part of the FMU having particular natural qualities that people value. Natural qualities may include exceptional, natural or iconic aesthetic features. Matters contributing to the natural form and character of an FMU are its biological, visual and physical characteristics that are valued by the community, including:

- its biophysical, ecological, geological, geomorphological and morphological aspects
- the natural movement of water and sediment including hydrological and fluvial processes
- the natural location of a water body and course of a river
- the relative dominance of indigenous flora and fauna
- the presence of culturally significant species
- the colour of the water
- the clarity of the water.

This value was recognised as being present in all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

The natural form and character of water bodies within the Pātea Catchment FMU are protected and, where the natural form and character has been degraded, their restoration is promoted and provided for.

Figure 7 shows the results of the 119 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 72% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

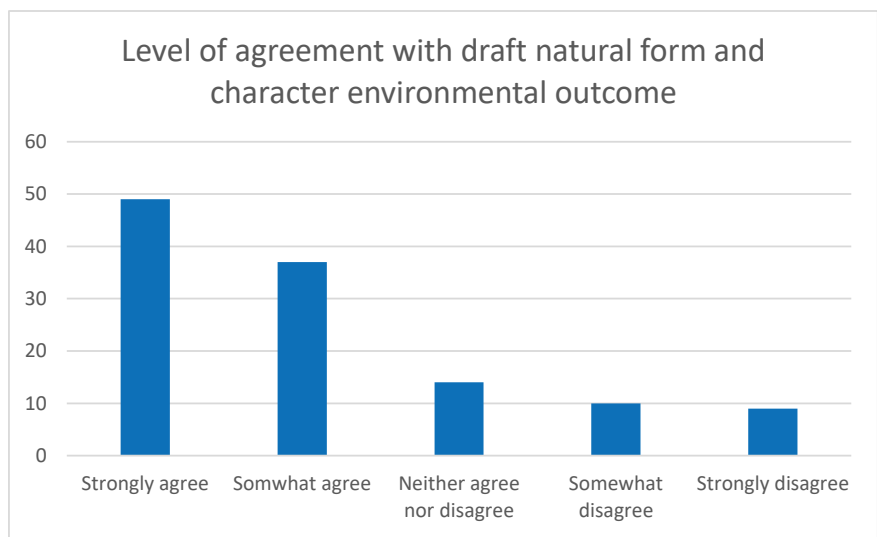


Figure 7: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for natural form and character, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Diversity across FMUs** – tangata whenua and the wider community generally agreed with the overall intent of the outcome and acknowledged that natural form and character varies across the different FMUs. Responders suggested putting more resources, including working groups and funding, into identifying these differences so as to craft more nuanced outcomes for each FMU. Additionally, groundwater across each FMU was requested by a responder to be explicitly included in the direction of this outcome. To further represent the diversity across the region, an amendment was suggested to include ‘flow and movement’ which may also create more unique outcomes across FMUs. An example of an FMU’s individual natural form and character was given for the Northern Hill Country FMU. According to one responder, this FMU was considered to contain a broad suite of waterbody types and enough natural character to be able to set specific goals. For the Volcanic Ring Plain FMU, a responder questioned why the long-term vision singled out Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and Conservation Lands when speaking of natural form and character.
- **Costs and impacts on existing infrastructure** – there was evident apprehension regarding economic feasibility and uncertainty around the future of existing infrastructure as a result of this outcome. Some responders felt that it was too ambitious and may not be achievable on the basis of cost. Concerns around having to restore historically modified waterbodies and the effects this outcome would have on existing flood protection schemes, such as the Waitara flood scheme, were raised by a number of responders. One responder suggested, however, that stormwater and wastewater infrastructure may actually be improved as a result of this outcome. There were multiple requests for flood protection and other critical infrastructure to be explicitly provided for in order to alleviate such concerns. As with the long-term vision, one responder questioned how this outcome would be implemented for areas such as the Ngāere swamp which has experienced significant drainage and loss of natural character.
- **Implementation approach and achievability** – as with the long-term vision, numerous questions were posed around what this outcome would require to be achieved and how feasible it is. Responders wanted to know who would be responsible for the promotion and provision of restoration and who would pay for it. Diverging responses were received regarding the achievability of this outcome with some stipulating that it was overly ambitious while others thought it wasn’t strong enough. As such, drafting requests ranged from changing ‘protected’ to ‘maintained and improved’, ‘restoration’ to ‘rehabilitation’ and ‘provided’ to ‘supported’, reflecting the varied views.

Drinking water supply

The NPS-FM expresses this value as the FMU or part of the FMU meeting people’s drinking water needs. Water quality and quantity is sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply. Matters affecting the suitability of water for drinking include:

- physical, chemical, and microbiological contamination (for example, bacteria and cyanotoxins, viruses, protozoa and other pathogens)
- any other contaminants identified in drinking water standards issued under the Health Act 1956 or any other legislation; and
- the effects of contamination on drinking water treatment processes and the safety of drinking water, and its aesthetic value (that is, appearance, taste, and smell).

This value was recognised as being present in all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

Sustainable and potable drinking water is provided for throughout the Pātea Catchment FMU by sufficient freshwater quality and quantity and is palatable where the natural chemistry of the source allows.

Figure 8 shows the results of the 117 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 83% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

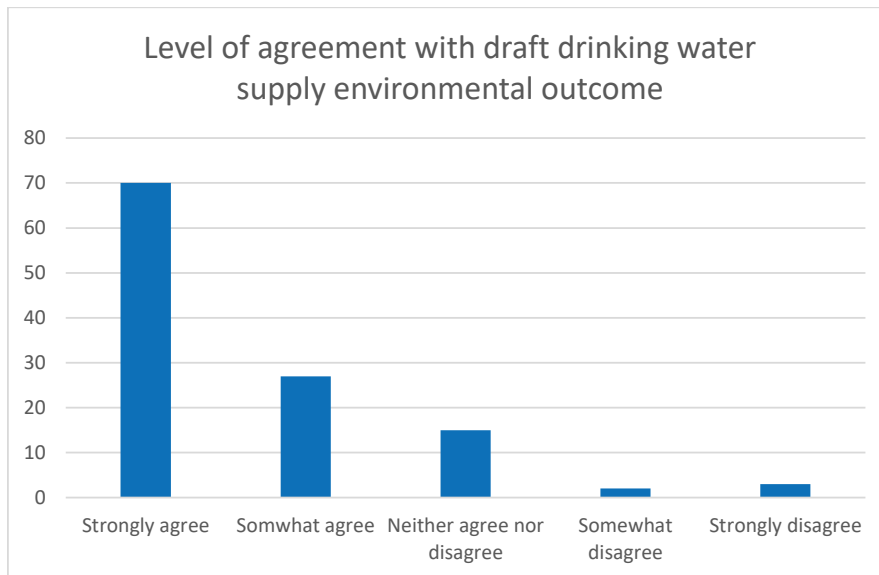


Figure 8: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for drinking water supply, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Implementation approach and achievability** – similar to natural form and character, responses indicated concern for the practicality and costs of achieving this outcome. In particular, potential costs to landowners and the challenges and impracticability of having all freshwater be drinkable was flagged. A suggestion was made to redraft this outcome to address the drinking water sources rather than the water itself, and to use the national drinking water standards in order to assess achievement.
- **Resilience of water supply** – the reliability and resilience of water supply was an important factor for some responders. Questions arose around the resilience of this supply in times of climate change or natural disaster, for example ash fall after a volcanic eruption. Recommendations were made to also explicitly consider groundwater and its resilience and supply.

Wai tapu

As stated in the NPS-FM, wai tapu represent the places in an FMU or part of an FMU where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua. Rituals and ceremonies include, but are not limited to, tohi (baptism), karakia (prayer), waerea (protective incantation), whakatapu (placing of rāhui), whakanoa (removal of rāhui), and tuku iho (gifting of knowledge and resources to future generations). In providing for this value, the wai tapu are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment, with valued features and unique properties of the wai protected. Other matters that may be important are that there is no artificial mixing of the wai tapu and identified taonga in the wai are protected.

This value was recognised as being present in all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

Tangata whenua can access wai tapu sites and localities within the Pātea Catchment FMU which are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment; the valued features and unique properties of wai are protected.

Figure 9 shows the results of the 117 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 62% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective. This environmental outcome did receive more 'neither agree nor disagree' responses than many of the other environmental outcomes.

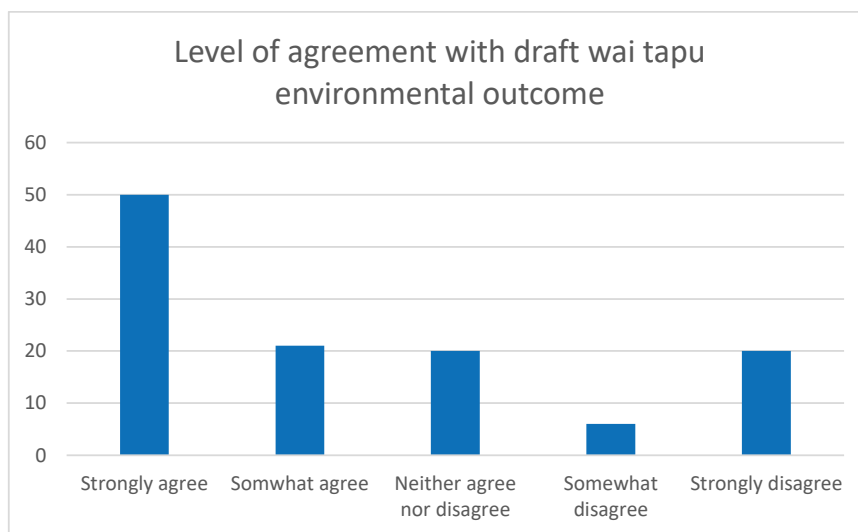


Figure 9: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for wai tapu, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Building a picture of wai tapu across Taranaki** – as with mahinga kai, responders considered that the Taranaki and FMU specific context would be necessary to add so that the outcome can be better understood and worked towards. Pou taiao pointed out that treatment of both wai and tapu may vary according to the area and context. As such, there was desire for hapū and whānau to be able to exercise kaitiakitanga as it is relevant and as applies to specific situations. There were diverging opinions surrounding the identification of wai tapu areas; pou taiao indicated that these areas could be everywhere and individual sites should not

need to be identified, whilst some people in the wider community wished to see evidence of sites such as through archaeological evidence.

- **Property rights** – also similar to feedback for the mahinga kai outcome, some people were concerned that this would mean that access to wai tapu sites would cause conflict for landowners and the wider community. Some responses included an objection on the basis of property rights being infringed upon.
- **Tangata whenua and the wider community's relationship with water** – parallel to the comments received for both Te Mana o te Wai and mahinga kai, a small number of responders felt that the outcome needed to acknowledge the rights of all people in this outcome.
- **Contamination concerns** – varying opinions were expressed regarding the drafting of 'free from human and animal waste' and 'contaminants'. Some responders were concerned about how this would affect farming, native wildlife and pest species. The achievability of this was questioned due to being potentially unrealistic and costly to achieve. Others felt that it was a step in the right direction and whilst contamination from waterfowl may always be present, every effort should still be made to prevent animal waste from reaching the waterbodies. Pou taiao also highlighted that the restoration of taonga species habitats, wetlands and sufficient riparian margins may mitigate against contamination concerns.

Transport and tauranga waka

The NPS-FM states that this value is present when an FMU or part of an FMU is navigable for identified means of transport. Transport and tauranga waka generally refers to places to launch waka and water craft and appropriate places for waka to land (tauranga waka).

This value was recognised as being present in the Southern Hill Country, Pātea Catchment, Volcanic Ring Plain and Waitara Catchment FMUs (the value was not identified in the consultation as being present for the Coastal Terraces and Northern Hill Country FMU). The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.⁷

Catchments/reaches of the Pātea Catchment FMU that are important for watercraft and tauranga waka have sufficient freshwater quantity to be navigable.

Figure 10 shows the results of the 94 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 57% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective. This environmental outcome did receive more 'neither agree nor disagree' responses than many of the other environmental outcomes.

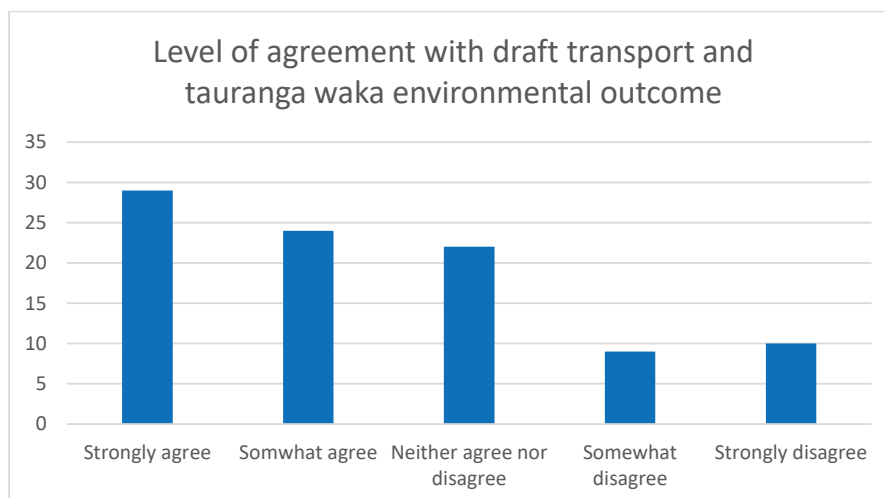


Figure 10: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for transport and tauranga waka, consolidating FMU responses from the Southern Hill Country, Pātea Catchment, Volcanic Ring Plain and Waitara Catchment FMUs (the value was not identified in the consultation as being present for the Coastal Terraces and Northern Hill Country FMU).

Key themes:

- **Access and navigability** – multiple responders signalled support for this outcome and its intention of the water being both accessible and navigable for watercraft and tauranga waka. Recreational access and broader public access to waterbodies across the region were stated to be important. To improve

⁷ Known transport and tauranga waka sites were identified within the FMU discussion documents as an appendix and can be found at the bottom of [this webpage](#).

navigability, Pou taiao wished to see the awa free of slumping banks, increased sediment, and exotic trees blocking the way.

- **Water quality** – some responders hoped to see a reference to water quality in this outcome as a way of ensuring people would not get sick when participating in water sports or recreation. A desire for the water to be safe for contact and minimising the risk of illness was expressed.
- **Recognition of value in FMU** – Pou taiao provided information as to how this value applies to the Northern Hill Country FMU. They discussed how te tira hoe waka travelled the awa to inland pa sites.

Fishing

The NPS-FM states that this value is present when an FMU or part of an FMU supports fisheries of species allowed to be caught and eaten. For FMUs or parts of FMUs valued for fishing, the numbers of fish are sufficient and suitable for human consumption. In some areas, fish abundance and diversity provide a range in species and size of fish, and algal growth, water clarity and safety are satisfactory for fishers. Attributes will need to be specific to fish species such as salmon, trout, tuna, lamprey, or whitebait.

This value was recognised as being present in the Southern Hill Country, Pātea Catchment, Volcanic Ring Plain, Waitara Catchment and Northern Hill Country FMUs (the value was not identified in the consultation as being present for the Coastal Terraces FMU). The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.⁸

The health and abundance of fisheries species within the Pātea Catchment FMU are provided for by suitable freshwater quality and quantity including at identified recreational fishing areas.

Figure 11 shows the results of the 111 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 76% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

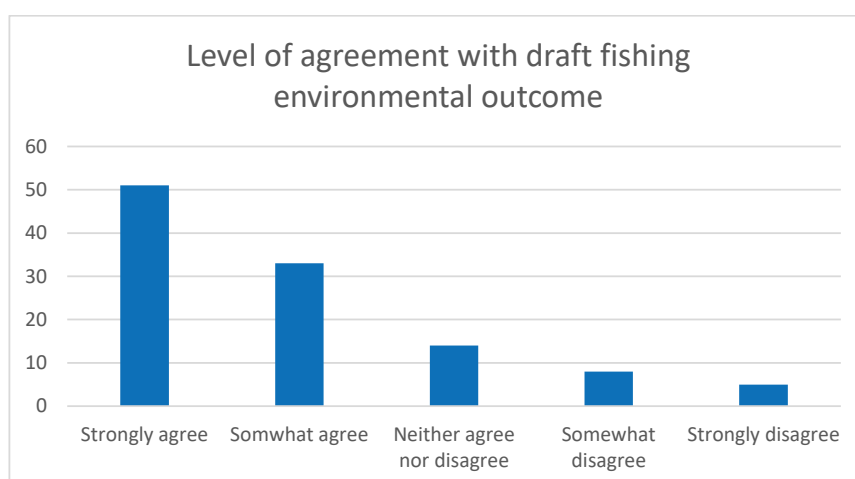


Figure 11: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for fishing, consolidating FMU responses from the Southern Hill Country, Pātea Catchment, Volcanic Ring Plain, Waitara Catchment and Northern Hill Country FMUs (the value was not identified in the consultation as being present for the Coastal Terraces FMU).

Key themes:

- **Indigenous species protection** – a number of responders were worried that, by providing for fisheries species, indigenous species and habitats would be negatively impacted. Some were concerned about the consequences of providing fish passage where a barrier to fish passage was protecting indigenous species.

⁸ Known recreational fishing areas were identified within the FMU discussion documents as an appendix and can be found at the bottom of [this webpage](#).

- **Identified areas** – where the outcome referenced ‘identified recreational fishing areas’, some responders held differing opinions on how this outcome should be spatially applied. One suggestion was for this to be broadened to include all areas while other feedback asked for areas where there are no introduced species to be identified, to ensure they don't get introduced there in future.
- **Health and abundance** – it was evident that the health and abundance of fisheries species was important to some community members. Some sought for their life-stage habitat to be provided for and that waterways be protected from over-fishing. Fish condition and water quality attributes were recommended as measurement tools to assess the achievement of this outcome. While the majority of responses supported indigenous species protection, a number of responders stated how important it was to them that established introduced species also be supported to thrive where they are currently recognised.

Hydro-electric power generation

The NPS-FM states that this value is present when an FMU or part of an FMU is suitable for hydro-electric power generation. Water quality and quantity and the physical qualities of the FMU or part of the FMU, including hydraulic gradient and flow rate, can provide for hydro-electric power generation.

This value was recognised as only being present in the Pātea Catchment FMU with regards to the hydro-scheme at the Pātea Dam.

Hydro-electric power generation at Lake Rotorangi is provided for by suitable freshwater quality and quantity and the physical qualities of the Pātea Catchment FMU.

Figure 12 shows the results of the 11 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses showed a relatively even spread with no one strongly disagreeing with the draft objective.

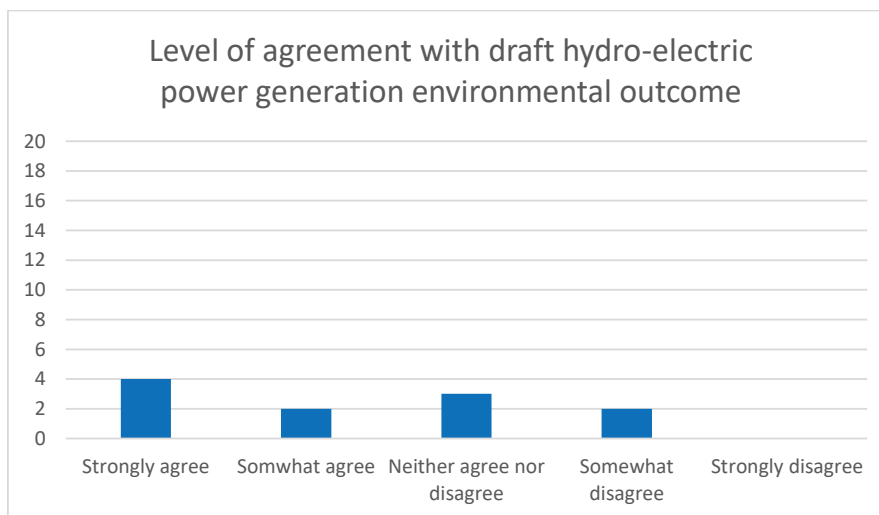


Figure 12: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for hydro-electric power generation for the Pātea Catchment FMU (the value was not identified in the consultation as being present for other FMU).

Key themes:

- **Recognition of value in multiple FMUs** – while this value was originally identified for only the Pātea Catchment FMU, many responders requested that it also apply to other FMUs. The Waitara Catchment FMU was suggested with reference to Lake Rātāpiko, Motukawa and the Waitara Estuary, as well as the Volcanic Ring Plain FMU with mentions of the Normanby and Mangorei hydro schemes. A request was made for other small scale schemes around the region to be recognised and for this outcome to recognise the potential for future schemes.
- **Hydro-electric power generation vs environmental values** – community feedback reflected both positive and negative perspectives towards providing for hydro-electric power generation. There was some support for this outcome as hydro-electric power was considered more efficient than other power generation methods. On the other hand, some respondents noted concerns regarding the negative environmental impacts caused by the activity particularly on the health of downstream ecosystems. Other examples of

adverse effects that were provided include reference to the Waiwhakaiho, Waingongoro and Waiau Rivers in the Volcanic Ring Plain FMU and the Manganui River in the Waitara Catchment FMU.

- **Te Mana o te Wai focus** – a small number of responders noted that any reconvening of hydro schemes and creation of new ones would need to have a Te Mana o te Wai focus. Responders identified the Volcanic Ring Plain FMU in particular as being a potential location for renewable electricity being appropriate as long as Te Mana o te Wai was provided for.

Animal drinking water

The NPS-FM states that this value is present when an FMU or part of an FMU meets the needs of farmed animals. Water quality and quantity meets the needs of farmed animals, including whether it is palatable and safe.

This value was recognised as being present in all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

Water bodies within the Pātea Catchment FMU provide sufficient and safe water for the drinking needs of animals.

Figure 13 shows the results of the 114 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 78% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

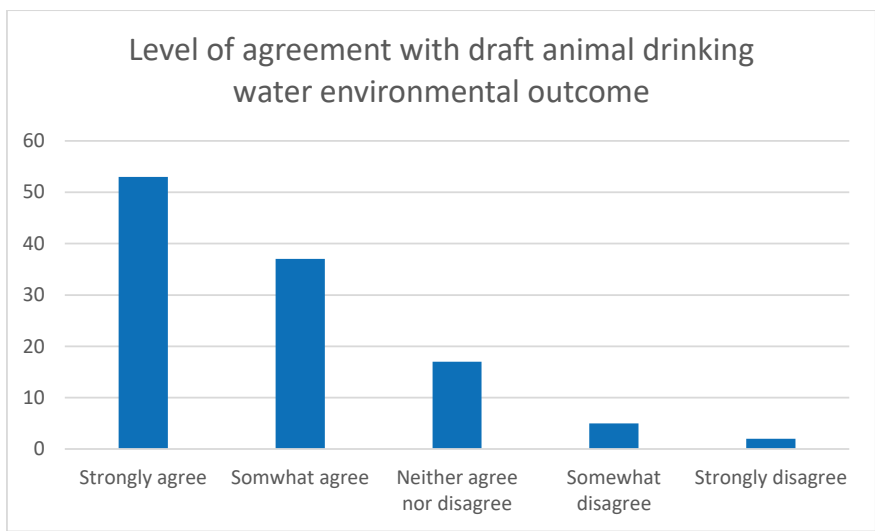


Figure 13: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for animal drinking water, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- Level of priority**—a large portion of responders were generally supportive of this outcome subject to animals not accessing water directly from the waterbodies. However, there were varying responses to level of priority that this value should be given compared with other values. Some people felt that this outcome was critical due to the amount of farming operations in Taranaki (a specific response referenced the Volcanic Ring Plain FMU). Others did not wish to see this outcome set equal to the human contact or ecosystem health outcomes. One particular response requested that this outcome be explicitly prioritised (elevated) in the hierarchy of obligations under Te Mana o te Wai.
- Stock vs environmental impacts** – a number of responses objected to this outcome due to the negative effects that stock may have on the environment. These responders highlighted reducing stock numbers and keeping stock out of waterways as important. Contrastingly, a small number of responders felt that protection methods, such as stock exclusion requirements, may result in stock not being able to access drinking water.

- **Water quality, suitability and sustainability** – responders were generally in support of the water itself needing to be suitable for animals to drink from and for there to be a sustainable supply. Concerns around silt, sediment and *E. coli* were noted as being an issue for this outcome within the Coastal Terraces FMU in particular.

Irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages

The NPS-FM states that this value is present when an FMU or part of an FMU meets irrigation needs for any purpose. Water quality and quantity is suitable for irrigation needs, including supporting the cultivation of food crops, the production of food from farmed animals, non-food crops such as fibre and timber, pasture, sports fields and recreational areas. Attributes will need to be specific to irrigation and food production requirements.

This value was recognised as being present in all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

Irrigation, cultivation and the production of food and vegetables within the Pātea Catchment FMU are sustainably provided for by suitable and reliable freshwater quality and quantity.

Figure 14 shows the results of the 114 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 78% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

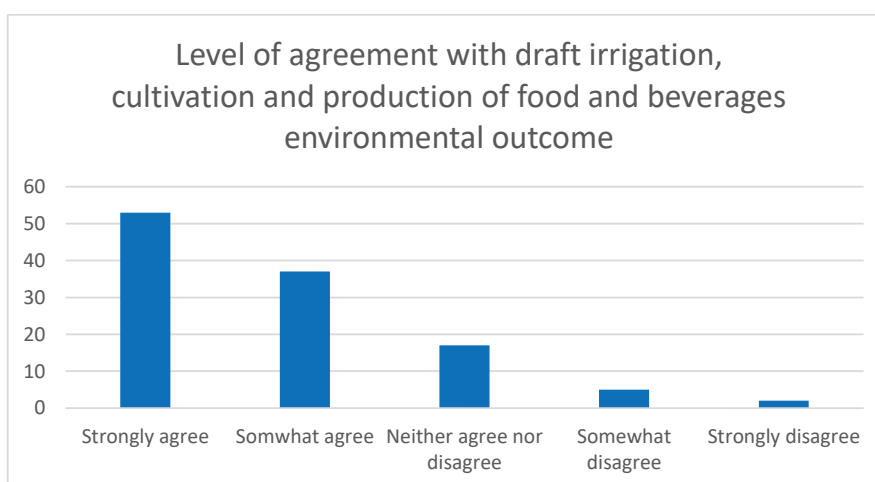


Figure 14: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for irrigation, cultivation and the production of food and beverages consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- **Specific industry and activity recognition** – a large number of responders provided feedback either asking for more clarity on what industries and activities (for example dairy sheds) are within the scope of this outcome, or requesting that a specific industry or activity be explicitly mentioned. The latter included fibre, horticulture, farming, fruit and vegetable production, water storage, (and sub-tropical food growing in the Northern Hill Country FMU). One responder requested that the value refer to ‘food and beverages’ instead of ‘food and vegetables’.
- **Sustainability and adverse effects** – some responders were worried about the consequences of large-scale irrigation, cultivation and production on the environment and the community. They felt that it could be unsustainable and to the detriment of ecological health and food resilience in the face of climate change. A request was made for this outcome to consider current and future situations and to be more specific about

what being 'sustainably provided for' looks like. As with animal drinking water, a few responses requested that this outcome be explicitly prioritised (elevated) in the hierarchy of obligations under Te Mana o te Wai.

- **Planning and management** – a small number of responders suggested that there should be more support for local catchment groups to continue with their work on the ground. They also requested that planning and management of horticulture development be both holistic and innovative so that it benefits the community and the environment.

Commercial and industrial use

The NPS-FM states that this value is present when an FMU or part of an FMU provides economic opportunities for people, businesses and industries. Water quality and quantity can provide for commercial and industrial activities. Attributes will need to be specific to commercial or industrial requirements.

This value was recognised as being present in all FMUs. The Pātea Catchment FMU outcome is shown below as an example.

Commercial and industrial activities and opportunities within the Pātea Catchment FMU are sustainably provided for by suitable and reliable freshwater quality and quantity.

Figure 15 shows the results of the 119 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 66% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective.

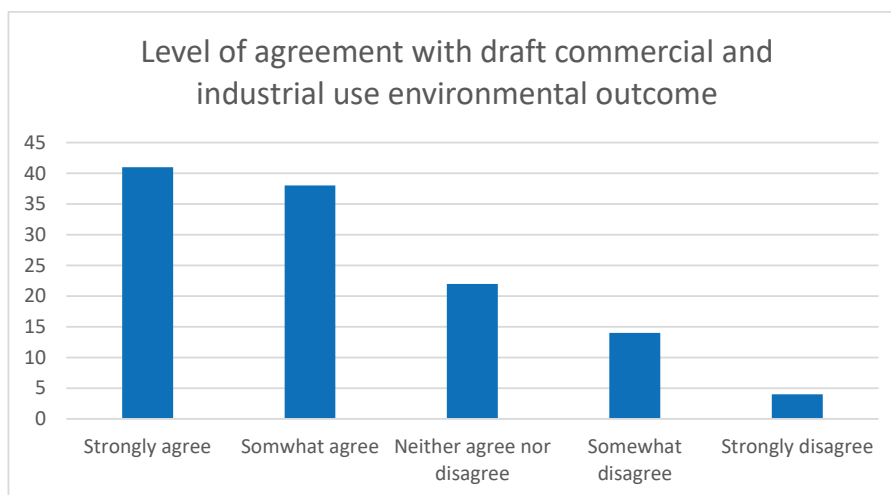


Figure 15: Counts of survey responses to the draft environmental outcome for commercial and industrial use, consolidating all FMU responses.

Key themes:

- Specific industry and activity recognition** – as with the previous value, responders asked for more clarity on what industries and activities (for example farming and food production operations or dairy shed water and wash down activities) are within the scope of this outcome. Some people were concerned that the outcome was too broad and shouldn't include all industries as some are considered unsustainable and it should instead be more selective. Some specific industry and activity requests for inclusion were hospital services, aged-care facilities and sports fields use. A question was also raised around why this outcome was relevant to the Northern Hill Country FMU given the rural production zone and slope of land.
- Sustainability** – similar to other values, responders requested that this outcome be prioritised in line with Te Mana o te Wai in order to ensure that community and environmental wellbeing are protected. Concerns were raised around the resilience of this outcome in the face of climate change and natural disaster events (such as a volcanic eruption). Additionally, some responders were worried that over-allocated or non-

equitable allocation could become an issue. A suggestion for overcoming such situations pointed to greater monitoring and enforcement practices being put into place. Support for cleaner and greener commercial and industrial practices was offered and the desire for Taranaki to be known for its sustainable lifestyle was expressed.

Environmental actions

Environmental actions can reduce and mitigate the negative impacts of human activities on natural processes.

The Council asked workshop attendees whether they had any suggestions for the type of environmental actions that could be applied to help achieve the long-term visions and environmental outcomes. This was a 'blue skies' white boarding session that helped to identify new opportunities, industry specific initiatives and ideas that could be included in addition to or alongside those already underway, such as riparian planting.

Suggestions for environmental actions included:

- **Farming practices** – opportunities to reduce impacts from farming through practices such as herd homes, reducing stocking rates and stock exclusion were suggested. The impacts of synthetic fertiliser use on water quality across the region was questioned. Questions were also asked about the extent to which these and other actions would close the gap.
- **Wetlands** – opportunities for more extensive use of wetlands to improve water quality, including the suggestion to introduce constructed wetlands along flood corridors and provide consenting pathways for constructed wetlands.
- **Riparian margins** – support for work undertaken to date and continued use of voluntary farm plans. There were questions about quantifying the impact of any future changes through Freshwater Farm Plans. In particular, whether there are any potential benefits/costs associated with different approaches, for example, prioritising critical source areas or changing riparian strip widths from 3m to 5m.
- **Water use** – consider the benefits of applying fees for water use along with monitoring of water use and collecting accurate data. Consider the benefits of shared water allocation schemes with users able to work together to determine which takes can occur at what times (e.g. day takes vs night takes).
- **Land use** – Increase understanding on the impact of land use changes, different use scenarios (e.g. harvest cycles) and opportunities to drive land use change through grants schemes.
- **Pest control** – suggestions that goat control would have an impact on regeneration and soil control.
- **Effluent impacts** – increase understanding of effluent impacts on surface and groundwater systems across the region.
- **Efficiency** – desire for the Council to consider where it can minimise duplication of effort for farmers with respect to reporting (e.g. reporting the same or similar information to Fonterra and the Council).
- **Carbon emissions** – desire for additional opportunities to reduce carbon emissions to be considered alongside environmental actions for freshwater outcomes.

Principles for setting target attribute states

Progress towards achieving each of the environmental outcomes will be measured against identified target attribute states. Attributes are things that can be measured and monitored that tell us about the state of a river or lake, such as E.coli levels, sediment or nitrate levels. A target attribute states identifies a level to be achieved for each measure. Each target state must be set above the existing baseline state and must at least achieve national bottom lines (national minimum requirements) where relevant.

Identifying target attribute states for each attribute (measure) is an important part of freshwater decision making and it must take into consideration many different factors.

The Council prepared a suite of draft principles to guide the target setting process and asked responders (survey and written submissions) whether they agreed, disagreed or had other feedback on the draft principles. The Council additionally asked what was important for the Council to consider when setting target attribute states. Due to the similarity of responses across the two questions, the feedback has been assessed together.

The five draft principles for setting target attribute states were:

1. *All assessments of target attribute states must have regard to the foreseeable impacts of climate change.*
2. *All target attribute states must either maintain or improve the attribute state from baseline:*
 - a) *to meet or exceed national bottom lines (except in the case of naturally occurring process); and*
 - b) *to either:*
 - i. *maintain the baseline state where the baseline is considered to already achieve the relevant environmental outcomes(s) and clause (a) has already been achieved; or*
 - ii. *improve upon the baseline state where this is not considered to achieve the relevant environmental outcome(s).*
3. *When identifying and assessing target attribute states, identify the actions/approaches/mitigations that would be required to achieve improvements at each National Objective Framework band.*
4. *Using best available information, ensure that an identified target attribute states is achievable within the timeframe set in the long-term vision and where the timeframe of a draft long-term vision may be unreasonable or unachievable, identify alternative options that may require incorporation into the draft long-term vision.*
5. *Where an attribute state is unlikely to meet the vision and environmental outcomes within 10 years, or where significant short term gain can be achieved, support the target attribute state with interim targets (no more than 10 year timeframes).*

Feedback was generally supportive with significant majority stating that they either 'strongly agree' or 'somewhat agree'.

Figure 16 shows the results of the 126 individuals that responded to the online survey. Overall, responses were positive with 59% of respondents either strongly or somewhat agreeing with the draft objective. A higher percentage of responders 'neither agreed nor disagreed' than in many of the other questions, however, only 12% of responders either 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed'.

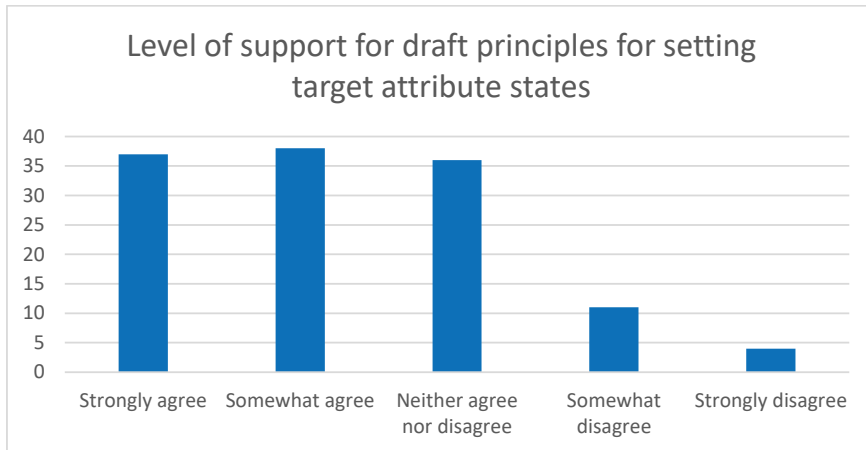


Figure 16: Counts of survey responses to the draft principles for setting target attribute states.

Key themes:

- **High priority for water quality** – feedback demonstrated a collective emphasis on prioritising water quality. Prioritisation of clean and healthy water, aiming for swimmable and drinkable standards and setting higher standards beyond the base level. There are calls for updating targets in the future if needed to consider the impacts of climate change.
- **Practical informed solutions** – emphasis on setting targets that are practical, achievable and affordably feasible, with concerns about the resources available to meet these targets. This includes the need for cost/benefit analysis and pragmatic approaches. Stressing the importance of a balanced approach considering the long-term and economic consequences and providing opportunities for the community to understand trade-offs.
- **Opposition to cost** – concern was flagged on the expense involved in chasing targets, suggesting that the focus should be on identifying problem areas and working on solutions instead of spending substantial resources on meeting set targets.
- **Appropriate timeframes** – with regards to principle (5) in particular, there are varying opinions about the relative timeframe applied to setting target states. While some consider that shorter timeframe (e.g. 2 or 5 years) provides necessary urgency, others believe that a 10 year timeframe might be too short to be affordable or to achieve the desired outcomes. There's a suggestion that longer-term plans, such as 30-year horizons or Māori "mokopuna" time frames, might be more appropriate. Generally, feedback is supportive of setting out a staged approach to achieving targets to ensure the community is ready and on board and for the sake of achievability.
- **Need for clarity** – some respondents find the principles complex, vague and in need of more practical, understandable application to real-world scenarios. They emphasise the importance of simple approaches and practical and achievable goals that are easy to understand. Others requested that that the targets are understandable for all.
- **Achieving outcomes and monitoring progress** – a commonly expressed sentiment indicated the need for regular evaluation and monitoring of progress toward outcomes. Respondents call for high-level, systematic

monitoring to track progress on water quality improvements and for this information to be readily accessible to the public. Suggestions for setting up monitoring systems and clear accountabilities to maintain the baseline levels.

- **Use of national bottom lines** – use of national bottom lines is directed in principle (2) and received diverging responses. Some considered that the drafting to be consistent with requirements of the NPS-FM. Some considered the use of national bottom lines to be appropriate to not disadvantage the region while others consider them too inflexible to deal with the specific conditions and variations in local catchments. A number of responses sought target states to be specifically set above the national bottom lines.
- **Inclusive approach** – strong calls for inclusivity for all with feedback highlighting the need to include all community members and others highlighted the need to consult with tangata whenua in the target setting process.
- **Level of ambition** – some criticised the lack of ambition in the proposed principles. Some believe that an ideal state should be set and worked toward in stages, and the current proposed targets are too low. Bottom-line or worse outcomes are deemed unacceptable.
- **Links to other legislation** – a number of responders referenced other legislation noting that there are other mechanisms at play that will yield improvements to water quality (e.g. NPS-PF, NES-CF) which should be considered when determining target states. Another responder referenced the NPS-HPL direction to have an integrated response to climate change seeking this be reflected in the principles.

Next steps

The Council will utilise feedback gained from this phase of engagement as direction for any updates and re-drafting required. This engagement has been extremely insightful and has provided Council staff with necessary information to progress policy development, mindful of community expectations. The feedback will be combined with previous engagement results, the Council's scientific data, and legislative requirements to further refine and inform the development of the freshwater framework for the future *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* and *Regional Land and Freshwater Plan for Taranaki*.

Re-drafted key focus areas may not reflect the exact language and expression that responders submitted but where possible community direction should still be evident through the intent of changes that are made. Council officers note that any changes will still need to be consistent with the directions of the NPS-FM and other relevant national requirements.

Staff are particularly mindful to ensure that re-drafts:

- improve clarity and understanding
- consider any conflicts between different values and provisions (noting that some conflicts may need to be resolved through policy directions rather than through objectives themselves)
- strike the right balance between ensuring protection and maintenance of values while also enabling and providing for appropriate use and development.

Going forward, the Council will be eager to present a more complete framework to support the objectives so that the community:

- is aware of any potential changes to the way freshwater may be managed going forward
- can determine likely impacts on people and businesses as a result of any changes
- can understand the likely costs and economic impacts.

The next phase of engagement is scheduled for mid-2024 and will present the draft target attribute states, limits for resource use and key changes to the freshwater rules. More information will be made available in due course.

AGENDA AUTHORISATION

Agenda for the Policy and Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2024

Confirmed:



2 Feb, 2024 1:14:24 PM GMT+13

A D McLay

Director Resource Management

Approved:



2 Feb, 2024 12:16:56 PM GMT+13

S J Ruru

Chief Executive