

Item 12 –

Project Newsletter

An update on the project that can be distributed to stakeholders.

Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai

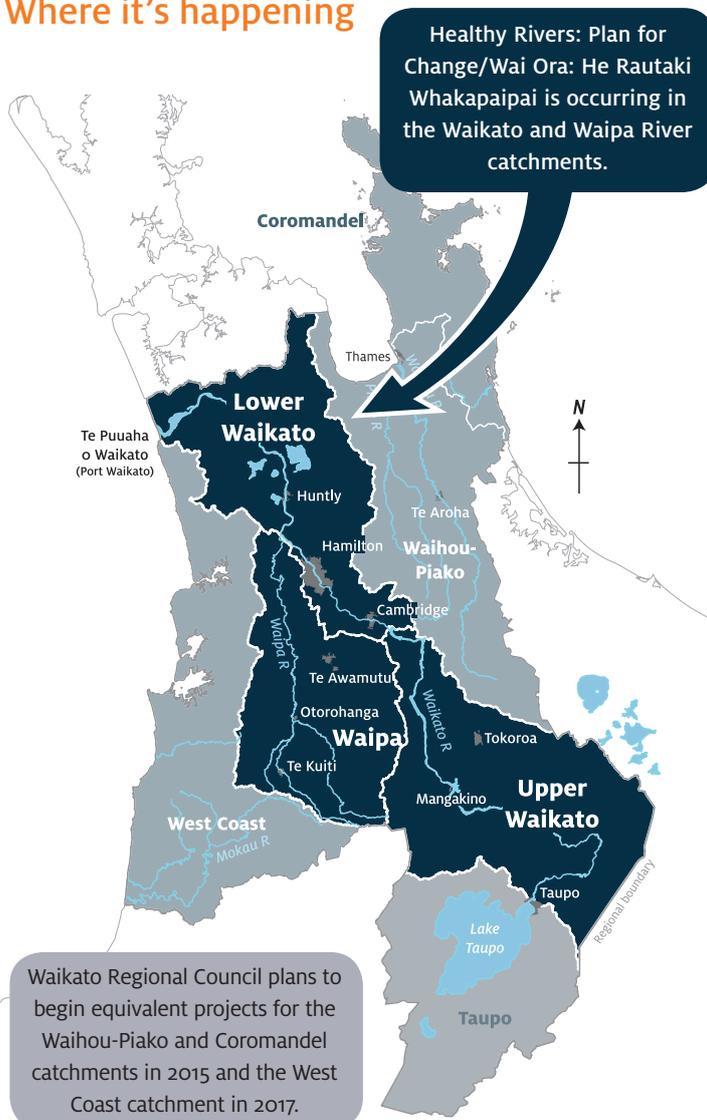
February 2014

The Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai project will work with stakeholders to develop changes to the regional plan to help restore and protect the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers, which are key to a vibrant regional economy.

Once developed, the plan change will help, over time, to reduce sediment, bacteria and nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) entering water bodies (including groundwater) in the Waikato and Waipa River catchments.

Waikato and Waipa River iwi and Waikato Regional Council are partners on this project, as set out in settlement and co-management legislation for the Waikato and Waipa rivers.

Where it's happening



Why a plan change is needed

Developing a plan change:

- is legally required by the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and the Government's National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011
- will tackle issues that are apparent in monitoring of the rivers, and prevent them becoming more difficult and expensive to fix
- will provide greater protection for fresh water – reviews of current Waikato Regional Council policy to protect fresh water state more is needed
- will help meet the expectations the Waikato community, iwi and industry hold for fresh water and the rivers.

Farmers, iwi, industry, local government and other stakeholders have already done much to address water quality, and are continuing to do so.

What the plan change will cover

It's too soon to say exactly what the proposed plan change will be, as it will be developed with stakeholders. However, it will set objectives, limits and targets for water quality in all water bodies. It also might include:

- limits and targets on contaminants such as bacteria and sediment entering water directly or via land
- property-level limits and targets for nitrogen and phosphorus, either as inputs or outputs
- specific outcomes for ecological health and recreation, fisheries and mahinga kai (food gathering)
- methods to help achieve limits and targets for sediment and bacteria, and ecological health and other outcomes, such as riparian fencing and planting.

Collaborating with stakeholders to develop the plan change

Collaboration with stakeholders and the community is key in developing the plan change and achieving lasting outcomes. Individuals and organisations will be involved in developing the plan change in a number of ways.

A Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) will be the central channel for stakeholder and broader community involvement in the project. This group will:

- actively involve communities affected and understand their views
- play a key role in leading further opportunities for involvement
- review and deliberate on technical material on the environmental, social, cultural and economic complexities of the project
- recommend solutions to decision makers.

The CSG (below) was formed in December 2013 and will first meet in February/March 2014.

Sector representatives		Delegate
Dairy	George Moss, Rick Pridmore	Charlotte Rutherford
Horticulture	Chris Keenan	Eamon Balle
Rural advocacy	James Houghton	Paul le Miere
Energy	Stephen Colson	Angus Judge
Industry	Ruth Bartlett	Mike Carrol
Sheep and beef	James Bailey	Erica van Reenen
Environment/NGOs	Al Fleming Tony Roxburgh	Jim Crawford David Campbell
Local government	Sally Davis	To be confirmed
Tourism and recreation	Alastair Calder	Kiri Goulter
Forestry	Patricia Fordyce	Sally Strang/ Kelvin Meredith
Māori interests	Topia Rameka, Weo Maag, Gina Rangi	To be confirmed
Water supply takes	Garry Maskill	Ilze Gotelli
Rural professionals	Phil Journeaux	To be confirmed
Community representatives		Delegate
People living in the Waikato or Waipa river catchments	Jason Sebastian	No delegates
	Brian Hanna	
	Gayle Leaf	
	Evelyn Forrest	
	Hone Turner	
	Gwyneth Verkerk	
	Ruthana Begbie	
	Matt Makgill	

An alliance of technical experts

We're currently working together with key stakeholders on forming a Technical Alliance, and expect this group to be formed by March 2014.

The Technical Alliance will collate, analyse, summarise and present environmental, social, cultural and economic information about the rivers and the consequences of different land management scenarios. This information will be used by the Collaborative Stakeholder Group and decision makers on the proposed plan change.

When it's happening

We expect to notify the proposed plan change in 2015. Allowing a couple of years for hearings, and any Environment Court appeals, the whole plan could be operative in 2019.

Indicative key dates

2014	develop land use scenarios and seek implications on range of targets for stakeholders, especially landholders
2013-15	begin developing policy methods for a range of targets, ground truth with landholders and analyse cost-effectiveness
Nov 2014	release <i>Issues and options</i> paper for feedback
May-Nov 2015	draft proposed plan change
Nov 2015	publicly notify proposed plan change for submissions
Late 2017	formal submission and hearing processes expected to finish

More information

 Sign up for updates:
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers

 healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz

 freephone 0800 800 401



Maniapoto Māori Trust Board
Raukawa Charitable Trust
Te Arawa River Iwi Trust

Wai Ora
HE RAUTAKI WHAKAPAIPAI

Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board
Waikato Raupatu River Trust
Waikato Regional Council