

Waikato

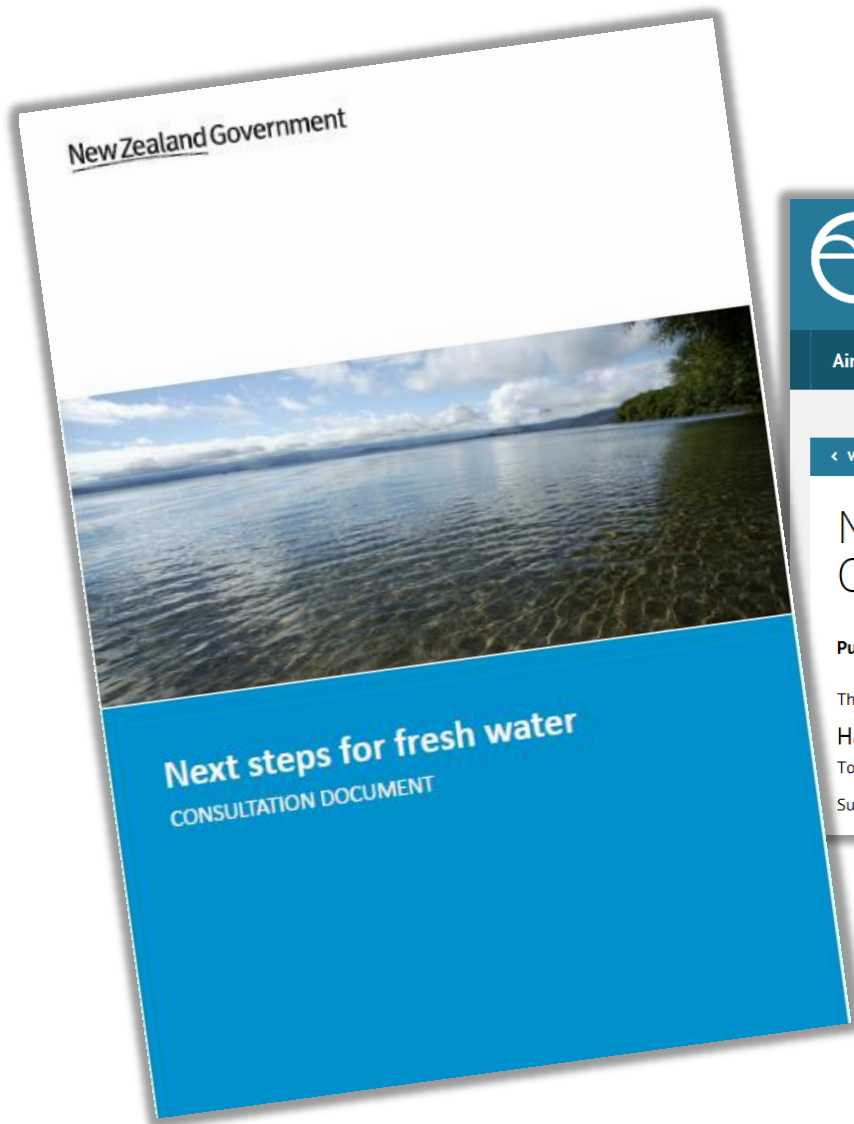



REGIONAL COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

Presentation overview

- Next steps for freshwater – Consultation document
- Let's talk water - freshwater discussion
- Waikato/Waipā Restoration Strategy
- NPSFM Appendix 3



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Next steps for fresh water: Consultation document

Publication date: February 2016 **Publication reference number:** ME 1233

This consultation document sets out the Government's proposals to improve the management of fresh water in New Zealand.

Have your say

To make a submission go to the [Consultation on next steps for freshwater web page](#).

Submissions are due by 5.00pm Friday 22 April 2016.

Table 1: Summary of key proposals

Fresh water and our environment

Amend the NPS-FM to improve direction on:

- exceptions to national bottom lines for catchments with significant infrastructure
- using the Macroinvertebrate Community Index as a mandatory monitoring method
- applying water quality attributes to intermittently closing and opening lakes and lagoons
- what it means to ‘maintain or improve overall water quality’.

Exclude stock from water bodies through regulation.

Economic use of fresh water

Require more efficient use of fresh water and good management practice.

Iwi rights and interests in fresh water

Strengthen Te Mana o te Wai as the underpinning platform for community discussions on fresh water.

Improve iwi/hapū participation in freshwater governance and management.

Better integrate water conservation orders (WCOs) with regional water planning and allow for increased iwi participation and decision-making on WCOs.

Freshwater funding

Set up the ‘Next Steps for Freshwater Improvement Fund’.

Observations

- Is a national discussion document, provides signals not direction (at this stage)
- Have cognisance of but not get side-tracked by
- Similar conversations had at national level as what are occurring through HRWO process
 - MCI – useful for monitoring
 - Stock exclusion of water ways
- Complementary and contradictory direction when viewed with the RM Legislation Bill
- Submissions close 22 April 2016

LET'S TALK WATER

ME KŌRERO E TĀTOU MŌ TE WAI



WHAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON

HEI AROTARI MATUA MĀ TĀTOU

1 THE GROWING DEMAND FOR WATER

The Waikato is struggling to keep up with the growing demand for fresh water. By mid-2024, three quarters of the region's water bodies will be fully allocated over summer.

Over time, a greater percentage may need to be allocated to meet demand. Unless we change our management approach, low water availability may limit its ability to respond to the Waikato. That means communities will be unable to access investment and grow means communities will be unable to access investment and grow.

Our region is a major source of water for a rapidly growing Auckland and this significantly adds to demand. Climate change will also impact water availability, changing how much water is available and how and where we use it.

Fresh water management is critical to meeting our regional aspirations and for us to contribute to the national economy.

Unless we change our management approach, low water availability may limit its ability to respond to the Waikato.

FAST FACT



We're already reaching our allocable water limits, but our population continues to increase.



By 2043, Waikato's population is projected to grow by a third, largely in Hamilton and the surrounding Waikato and Waipa districts.



Growth will put further pressure on our finite water resources, which during summer is already reaching its limits in these districts.

PROVIDING FOR AUCKLAND



Waikato's existing consents allows it to take the equivalent of 88 Olympic-sized swimming pools (150,000m³) of water per day from the Waikato River to meet Auckland's needs.



Waikato is seeking to increase that take by a further 88 Olympic-sized swimming pools (100,000m³) per day.



88% of Auckland's current water take comes from the Waikato.

FAST FACT

COMING IN, GOING OUT

Fresh water comes into the Waikato from the south via the Tongariro Power Development. This discharges it into Lake Taupo at Tokanga, adding about 28% of water into the Waikato River system.

Significant amounts of fresh water also leave the Waikato to the north from three conserved lakes. Waikato's take from the Waikato River at Waikato is 88% of Auckland's current water take from the Waikato.

American's dams on the south side of the Tongariro Ranges prevent water from reaching Lake Taupo.

AN ISSUE FOR ALL OF US

HE TAKE MĀ TĀTOU KĀTOA

WAIKATO'S WATER



RIVERS
The Waikato has three major river systems: the Waikato, the Waipa, and the Waikare. Other smaller rivers and streams contribute these systems.



LAKES
We have more than 1,000 lakes including New Zealand's largest, Lake Taupo. Climate for agriculture means many Waikato lakes are being completely drained. Lake Taupo now receives more nutrients and sediment, impacting on water quality.



WETLANDS
More than 50% of Waikato wetlands have been converted to pasture.



GROUNDWATER
In the Waikato, groundwater makes up about two thirds of the strongly limited to the surface water resource.



Can we do more?
Can we (and should we) work to make the Waikato healthier, stronger and more vibrant?
We think so.

VARIATION 6 MANAGING WATER QUANTITY 9 YEARS IN THE MAKING



LATE '03 PROJECT COMMENCED



OCT '06 VARIATION 6 NOTIFIED



NOV '08 COUNCIL DECISIONS NOTIFIED



APR '12 VARIATION 6 BECAME OPERATIVE

Cost for Waikato Regional Council alone from start to finish approximately \$4.5 million.



Just *think* what the total cost for everyone must have been!



Healthy environment

Strong economy

Vibrant communities



Beginning a wider conversation

- Understand the issues and opportunities for the region around water
- Platform to confidently inform the national water conversation – from a regional perspective
- High level regional issues
 - The growing demand for water
 - More tools for better results
 - Connecting water quantity and quality
 - A strong voice in the national conversation
 - The right research
 - Iwi rights and interests

Let's think (and talk) about ...

- Economic instruments
 - Operational options
 - More water trading
 - Better land use
 - Increased efficiencies
 - Water storage
 - Iwi rights and interests
 - Legislative change
- Sustainable Waikato event
March 2

Let's talk water.

- Beginning the conversation

HERE'S HOW

 Provide feedback via the website www.letstalkwater.nz

 Email letstalkwater@waikatoregion.govt.nz

 Write to Let's Talk Water, Waikato Regional Council,
Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240

 Talk to us. Call freephone 0800 800 401.



WAIKATO RIVER & WAIPA RIVER

restoration strategy

DairyNZ
Waikato River Authority
Waikato Regional Council

February 2016



Purpose

- River Restoration Forum
 - River Iwi, WRA, WRC, TA's, DOC, DNZ, Fonterra, MRP, Genesis
 - to maximise opportunities to realise the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River catchment
- Objective - oversee the preparation of a staged 5-15 year Waikato / Waipa River Restoration Action Plan
- Purpose - To guide future 'on the ground' activities for all organisations undertaking restoration through identification of specific, technically achievable, prioritised, geographically based management actions
- Builds on previous work but will inform priorities for the available funding

Restoration Strategy refresh

The Restoration Strategy will be broken into four core units

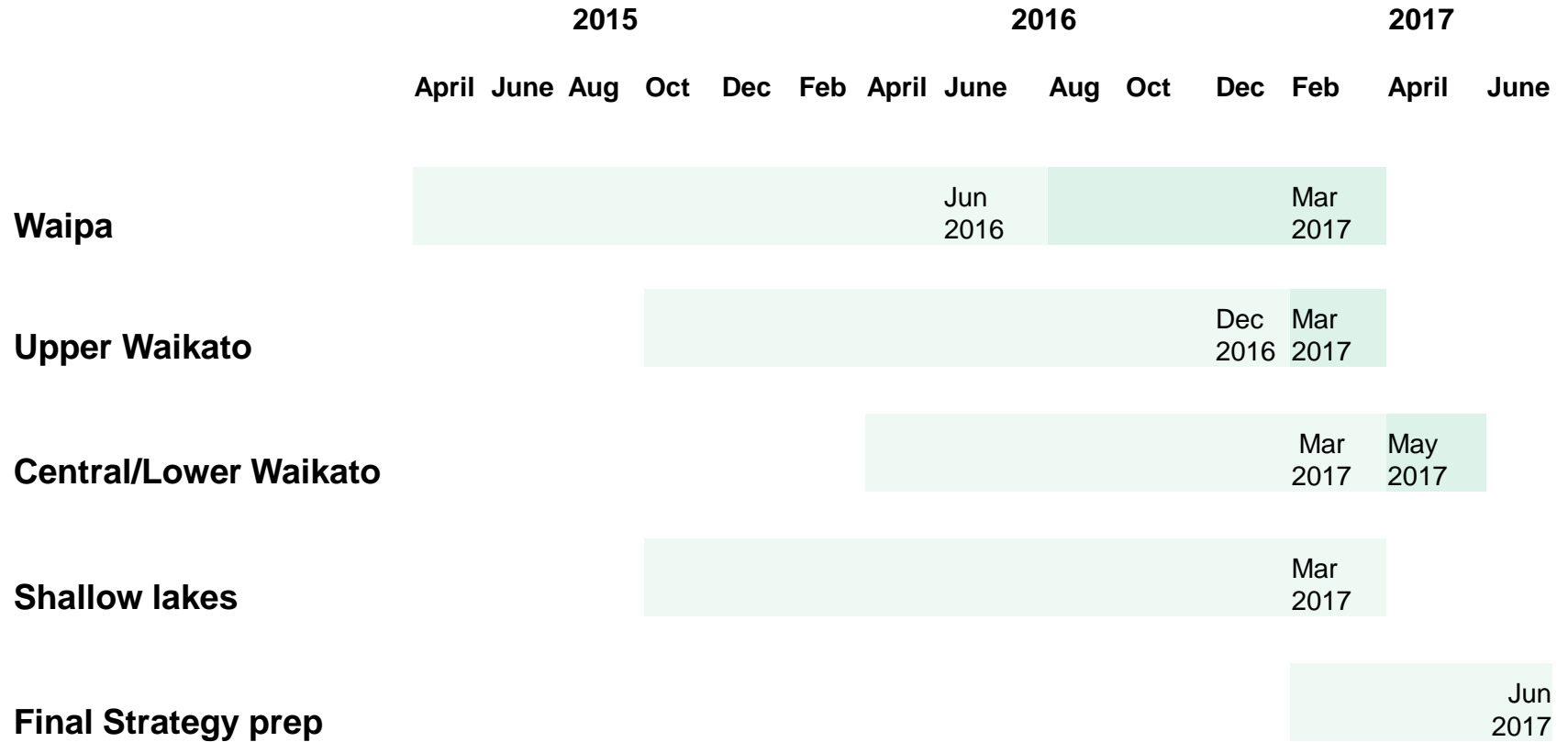
- Waipa, Upper Waikato, Central and Lower Waikato and Shallow Lakes.
- A fifth unit considering wetland restoration priorities is being developed and will be incorporated into the Restoration Strategy once completed.

Each unit will include the following:

- Summary of current state
- Stakeholder aspirations and goals for achieving the Vision and Strategy
- Identification of locations of risk and opportunity for in-scope matters
- A prioritised list of actions for achieving catchment goals over the next 5-15 years
- Unit based actions will also be prioritised on a whole of catchment basis.

This approach will provide guidance to stakeholders working across just one management unit area through to those working across all management units.

Timeframe for delivery



Update on activities

- Waipa
 - Goals confirmed via goal setting hui
 - Sedimentation/erosion and biodiversity priority sites identified through modelling
 - Fisheries hui, modelling and identification of priority sites
 - Identification of priority sites for recreational access
- Lakes
 - Terms of Reference for lakes modelling developed
 - 4 lakes selected for modelling: Waikare, Waahi, Rotomanuka and Ngaroto
 - Management scenarios to test the actions most likely to facilitate change
 - Lakes modelling to be completed by December 2016

Further update

- Upper Waikato
 - Modelling of erosion/sedimentation and biodiversity complete
 - Goal setting hui scheduled for March 16
- Lower Waikato/Central
 - Modelling of erosion/sedimentation and biodiversity complete
- Selection of overall prioritisation model for biophysical actions (INFFER)
- Separate workstream for identification of iwi priorities (to be led by Waikato-Tainui College)

NPSFM Appendix 3



NPSFM Appendix 3

- Policy CA3 of the NPS-FM provides an opportunity for infrastructure managers to seek listing in Appendix 3 of the NPS. Only applies where:
 - existing water quality does not meet national bottom line, and
 - regional council considers it appropriate to set freshwater objective below bottom line, because
 - Infrastructure in whole or in part contributes to the existing water quality level
- The population of Appendix 3 provides for a public consultation process
- Listing in Appendix 3 does not automatically guarantee inclusion, that will be decided through a Schedule 1 consultation process

WRC rationale

- WRC manages significant flood protection infrastructure that provides region with agreed level of service for community protection and productivity
- Exemption application allows WRC to continue to deliver levels of service pending the outcomes of RMA planning processes
- Potential listing enables infrastructure to be considered for an exemption
- Region wide approach, acknowledging that the Vision and Strategy prevails for the Waikato and Waipa catchments

Next steps

- Council endorsement of ICM Committee recommendation, including continuing conversations with river Iwi
- Application to be considered for inclusion in Appendix 3 for public consultation by the Ministry for the Environment
- Ministry for the Environment to progress through a consultation process for inclusion of significant infrastructure
- Previously indicated consultation early 2016, likely to now follow outcomes of Next steps for Freshwater discussion document