

Freshwater management units

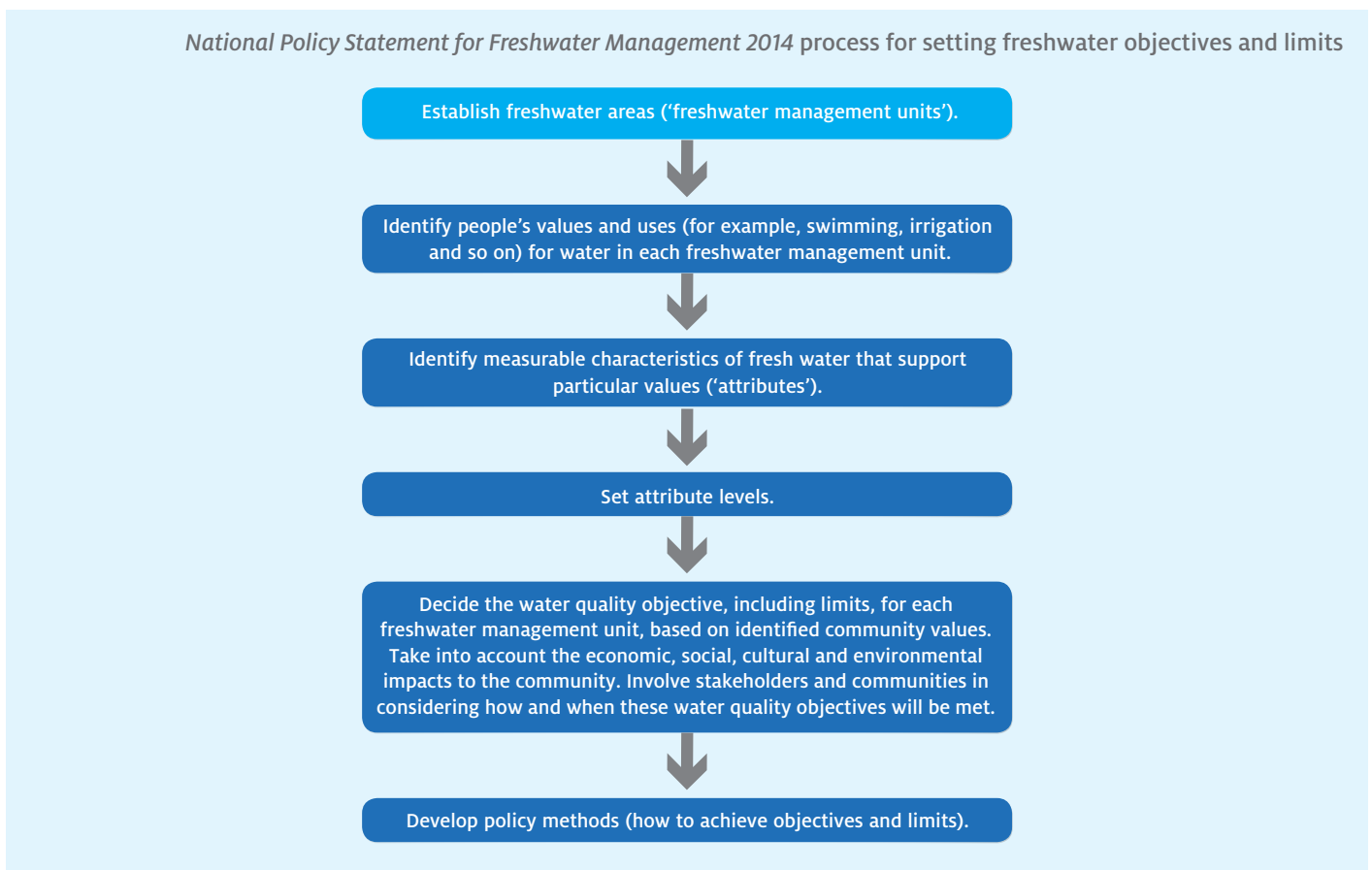
What they are

Central government's *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014* directs regional councils to identify areas called 'freshwater management units' (FMUs).

An FMU can be a water body, multiple water bodies or any part of a water body determined to be the appropriate scale for setting freshwater objectives and limits. The definition of FMUs is intentionally flexible so councils can determine the spatial scale best suited to managing fresh water in the specific circumstances of their region.

Why they are needed

As shown in the diagram below, defining the spatial scale that fresh water is managed is the first step. Within each FMU the process includes setting values, objectives, limits, and undertaking freshwater accounting and monitoring.



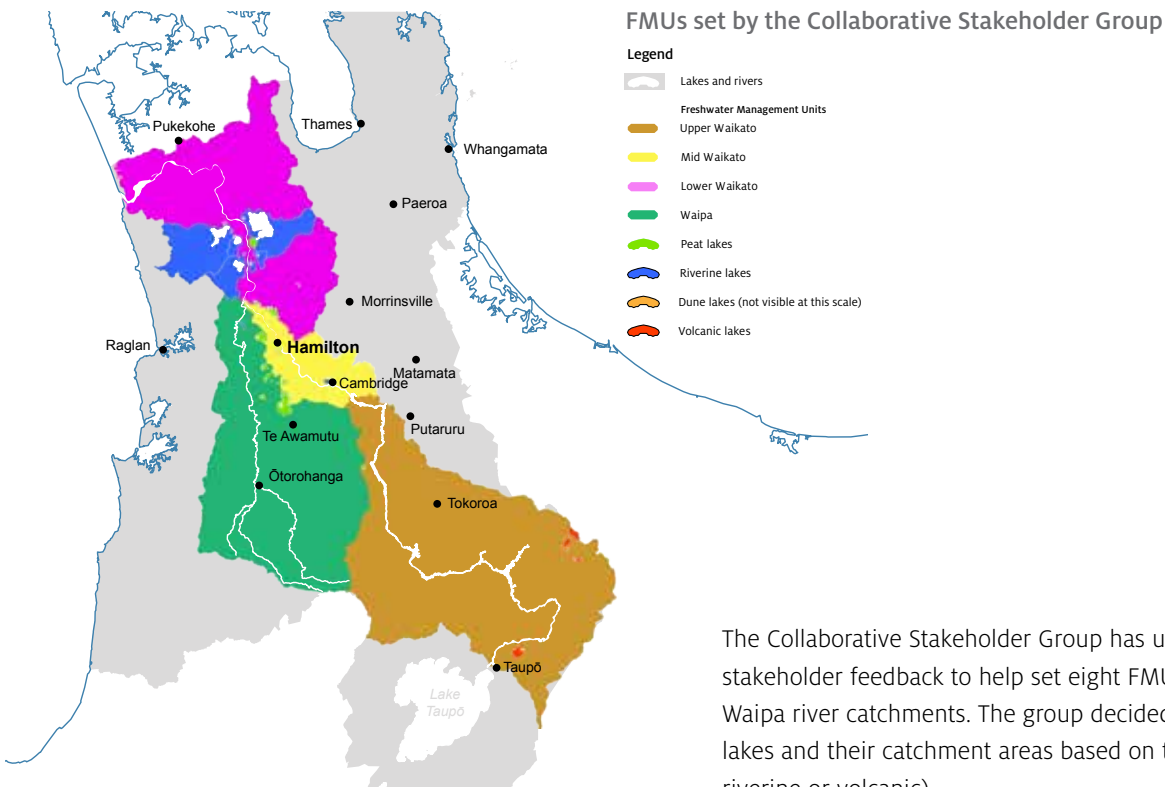
How they are used

FMUs enable progress towards meeting freshwater limits and targets to be monitored.

FMUs do not dictate the policy approach to be taken in an area. There can be important differences in geology, soil type or land use within and across FMUs. So:

- within a single FMU, different areas may have distinct or uniform policy
- across multiple FMUs, there may also be distinct or uniform policy

FMUs for the Waikato and Waipa river catchments



The Collaborative Stakeholder Group has used community and stakeholder feedback to help set eight FMUs for the Waikato and Waipa river catchments. The group decided to create FMUs for lakes and their catchment areas based on their type (peat, dune, riverine or volcanic).

The table below describes each FMU shown on the map.

Upper Waikato	Waikato River from Huka Falls to Lake Karapiro
Middle Waikato	Waikato River from Lake Karapiro to Ngaruawahia
Lower Waikato	Waikato River from Ngaruawahia to Port Waikato
Waipa	The entire Waipa River catchment to Ngaruawahia, where the Waipa joins the Waikato River
Riverine lakes	15 riverine lakes and their catchments Many riverine lakes, such as Waikare, Whangape and Waahi are in the northern part of the catchments.
Peat lakes	35 peat lakes and their catchments Many peat lakes, such as Ngaroto, are in the Waipa catchment. Others include a cluster of eight peat lakes north east of Hamilton in Horsham Downs, and Lake Rotoroa (Hamilton Lake).
Dune lakes	4 dune lakes and their catchments, north of Port Waikato
Volcanic lakes	5 volcanic lakes and their catchments, in the south eastern part of the catchments.

Three geothermal lakes in the southern part of the catchments are not defined as 'fresh water' by the Resource Management Act. For this reason, these water bodies are not included in the Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora project.

More information



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