

Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – for Agreement and Approval

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To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group
From: Chairperson – Bill Wasley
Subject: **Framing the steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time**
Section: **Agreement and Approval**

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Waikato Regional Council policy advisors for the use of Collaborative Stakeholder Group Healthy Rivers: Wai Ora Project as a reference document and as such does not constitute Council's policy.

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an example of how to frame the steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time, and provide a list of relevant information developed so far to assist in this discussion.

Recommendation:

1. That the report [Framing the steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy] (Doc #3538762 dated 25 September 2015) be received, and
2. That the Collaborative Stakeholder Group confirm that policy staff should continue investigating the concept of a staged approach to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time, and should:
 - a. work with TLG to understand the results of Round 2 scenario modelling and Integrated Assessment, and
 - b. work with River Iwi technical advisor to understand River Iwi perspectives, and
 - c. prepare a second 'draft outcome statement and steps towards restoration' for CSG consideration at workshop 18, 13-14 October.

2 Framing the steps

Over the last 18 months CSG have developed an understanding of what the community values about the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. CSG are exploring what actions on the land would be required to achieve different water quality outcomes, and some of the costs of those changes, through a series of modelled scenarios. The discussion and selection of scenario reruns for round 2 at CSG15 suggested that the CSG might consider a staged approach to achieving water quality management outcomes over time. A key point the CSG made in the discussion was that:

Scenario 1 (from the first round) represented the **ultimate goal in terms of achieving the Vision and Strategy**. Conversations were focused on scenarios to model in the re-run that would identify a **pathway towards this ultimate goal**.

(CSG15 workshop notes, #3490222)

At CSG workshop 17, 1-2 October, the CSG will consider the following policy topics:

1. Decide water quality targets for the rivers in the long term to consult on with the community.
2. Discuss how far we could go in 2016 Plan change (interim river targets and where should these be set) for
 - Maintain water quality **or**
 - Water quality improvement.

This report focuses on what the CSG wants to achieve and by when. Another policy report is also included on the agenda for CSG17, which covers the key policy and project questions the CSG need to address before notification, which is the 'how'.¹ The approach may involve a choice that the actions required to meet the Vision and Strategy should be undertaken over a timeframe that is longer than the 10 year RMA planning document cycle. Such an approach would require a number of stages to achieve the Vision and Strategy over a set period of time². Whatever the detail of the steps, the overall approach needs to be clearly articulated when talking to the community in late October, in recommendations to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee and the notified Plan Change 1 document.

3 Relevant information developed so far

Below is a list of information that is relevant when considering outcomes and steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time. This list includes the topics discussed in this report plus others. Full details are included in the reference list.

- River Iwi outcome and principles for implementing Te Ture Whaimana
- Scenario modelling results for scenarios 1-4 in round 1, and initial descriptions of what will be modelled in round 2
- Integrated Assessment results round 1
- Draft narrative objectives and some feedback on them from the CSG
- CSG's Values and Uses of the Waikato and Waipa rivers
- CSG's Policy Selection Criteria
- S32 template with criteria to assess objectives against
- Timeframe feedback from Intensive engagement period 1

¹ See report Decisions and pathways for CSG's recommendations on the Plan Change to help achieve the Vision and Strategy, #3538439.

² This also raises questions about how to secure the steps towards the long term desired outcomes across the many iterations of RMA planning documents.

- Policy report to CSG17 – Decisions and pathways for CSG’s recommendations on the Plan Change to help achieve the Vision and Strategy, #3538439

4 Draft outcome statement and steps towards restoration

Given all of the information and discussion noted in this report, policy staff have drafted an example that describes a suggested overarching outcome statement and steps along the way for achieving the Vision and Strategy over time. Refer to textbox 1.

Note: the detail contained in the water quality outcome in textbox 1 has been drawn from the River Iwi outcome and principles for implementing Te Ture Whaimana document, for example the 80 year timeframe. The detail contained in stages 1-3 is simply arbitrary to show how they may look.

Textbox 1: Starting point for conversation to develop draft outcome statement and stages towards restoration

Water quality outcome – Restore and Protect

The water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is restored and protected by 2095 so that the rivers and their tributaries are:

- a) safe to swim in all seasons across a range of flows, and
- b) safe to harvest kai for eating, and
- c) able to support abundant and diverse freshwater fisheries, flora and fauna.

The restored water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is protected for future generations.

Staged improvements to achieve restoration

The water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments will be restored over the next 80 years in a series of staged improvements. The water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments will not degrade any further while stages to achieve restoration are being implemented.

Stage 1

By 2025 water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is maintained at 2015 levels for attributes a, b and c, and a XX% improvement is achieved for attributes x,y and z.

Stage 2

By 2035 a XX% improvement is achieved for attributes a, b and c, and a XX% improvement is achieved for attributes x,y and z.

Stage 3

By 2055 attributes a, b and c are fully restored and a XX% improvement is achieved for attributes x,y and z.

Where this type of information would eventually be placed at the end of CSG’s process needs to be further understood. One example is for an outcome statement and steps along the way to be included in the CSG recommendation report to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee, and then inserted into the Water Quality Outcomes section of Plan Change 1.

Staff are seeking CSG’s feedback, confirmation to continue developing this approach, and further drafting instructions considering the round 2 scenario modelling and Integrated Assessment results.

5 Draft narrative objectives with CSG edits

At CSG14, 10-11 August 2015, policy staff presented some draft objectives (#3448854), and CSG provided comments on the wording. General feedback also included the following points:

- Would be useful to have a holistic objective – a broad outcome statement which is still succinct and to the point and says what needs to be achieved - a touchstone that the other objectives are linked into.
- Suggestion to have an objective that reflects the scenario the CSG settles on.
- A new sub-group to work on wording in the plan change was established with Ruth Bartlett, Trish Fordyce, Stephen Colson, Sally Millar as well as Grant Kettle and Billy Brough from river iwi staff, to be members.
- The sub-group will look at river iwi paper outcome statements (#3483800) and integrate into outcomes/ objectives.

(CSG14 workshop notes, #3471459)

See textbox 2 for a tracked changes version of CSG edits of the draft objectives, as well as staff edits to match the wording to the finalised values and uses.

These objectives may end up being completely replaced by water quality outcomes, higher level objectives, numerical objectives or a combination of those. The edits are provided here to CSG for completeness and for future reference if these are to be developed further.

Textbox 2: CSGs draft objectives following CSG14

Objective 1: Mana Atua – Protecting and Restoring Intrinsic Values

Within a generation, the health and wellbeing of the rivers and other water bodies within the catchment is ~~increased~~improved, ~~which to~~ enhances natural qualities and sustains abundant indigenous ~~and valued~~ species and their habitats.

Objective 2: Mana Tangata – Protecting and Restoring ~~Human Values~~ Tangata Whenua Values

Tangata whenua values are integrated into the co-management of the rivers and other water bodies within the catchment ~~including recognitions~~such that:

- Tangata whenua connection with the ~~R~~ivers and other water bodies in the catchment is strengthened ~~through the co-management of the natural resource~~,
- Improvement in the ~~R~~ivers water quality increases the spiritual and physical wellbeing of iwi and their tribal ~~identity~~ and culture identity.

Objective 3: Mana Tangata – Protecting and Restoring Human Values

The ~~R~~ivers continue to support a range of ~~active and passive~~ human uses for recreation, ~~food gathering mahinga kai and fishing~~, electricity generation, primary production, water supply, commercial, municipal and industrial use, mitigating flood hazards, geothermal, wai tapu and transport and tauranga waka.

~~Recognition that Waikato and Waipa Rivers are working rivers that must sustain people and communities and that a~~Any changes to restore and protect water quality ~~in~~ of the river catchments will take many years to be fully realised.

6 Summary

CSG need to translate what the Vision and Strategy means for the rivers, and clearly articulate the steps along the way towards achieving it over time. Policy staff have drafted an example that describes a suggested overarching outcome statement and a staged pathway for achieving the Vision and Strategy over time. Where this type of information would eventually be placed at the end of CSG's process needs to be further understood

Staff are seeking feedback and confirm that we should continue investigating a staged approach to achieving the Vision and Strategy over time. To do this policy would work with TLG to understand the results of Round 2 scenario modelling and Integrated Assessment, and work with River Iwi technical advisor to understand River Iwi perspectives. Policy staff will prepare a second 'draft outcome statement and steps towards restoration' for CSG consideration at workshop 18, 13-14 October.

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References

Collaborative Stakeholder Group 2015. CSG's policy selection criteria. Document #3183705

Collaborative Stakeholder Group 2015. CSG's values and uses of the Waikato and Waipa rivers. Document #3487849

Technical Leaders Group 2015. Integrated Assessment: Indicator and Baseline Matrix. Document #3495598 v7

Technical Leaders Group 2015. Integrated Assessment One: Assessment of Scenarios from model round one. Document #3510525 v3.

Waikato and Waipa River Iwi and Waikato River Authority 2015. Outcome statement and principles for implementing Te Ture Whaimana – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers. Document #3483800

Waikato Regional Council 2015. Report to CSG – Agreement and Approval Decisions and pathways for CSG's recommendations on the Plan Change to help achieve the Vision and Strategy. Dated 28 September 2015. Document #3538439.

Waikato Regional Council 2015. Report to CSG – Agreement and Approval. Plan Change template: incorporating the subgroup's recommended new headings and wording of water quality outcomes. Dated 27 July 2015. Document #3448854.

Waikato Regional Council 2015. Report to CSG – For Information. Excerpt related to the question of timeframes from the report "Intensive engagement period 1 feedback report". CSG workshop 16b. Dated 11 September 2015. Document #3508501.

Waikato Regional Council 2015. TEMPLATE: Section 32 evaluation report for Waikato Regional Plan Change No. 1 - Waikato and Waipa Catchments. Document #3306075

Workshop notes CSG 15, 27 August 2015, Section 14 TLG final session. Document #3490222

Workshop notes, CSG 14, 10 August 2015, Section 7 Plan template. Document #3471459