

Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – for Agreement and Approval

File No: 23 10 02
Date: 1 March 2016
To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group
From: Chairperson – Bill Wasley
Subject: **Inserts to: Tiakina o tatou wai / Protecting our water - Draft policy mix report**
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

To provide CSG with progress made since CSG workshop 26 February for the eight topics that were placeholders in the draft document entitled Tiakina o tatou wai / Protecting our water. Overview of Collaborative Stakeholder Groups Recommendations on Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1. Where there is material that can be inserted into Tiakina o tatou wai, this is contained for CSG discussion on 2-3 March.

The eight topics are:

1. Point source discharges
2. Whangamarino wetland
3. Long term numerical objectives for rivers and lakes
4. Non regulatory methods (including cost sharing)
5. Development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Māori land
6. Prioritising timing of implementation
7. Short term numerical and narrative objectives

The following sections of this report update the CSG on each of these topics.

Recommendation:

1. That the report 'Inserts to: Tiakina o tatou wai / Protecting our water - Draft policy mix report' (Doc #3710575 dated 1 March 2016) be received, and
2. That the Collaborative Stakeholder Group discuss the following topics and the material provided and decide what to put into Tiakina o tatou wai / Protecting our water. Overview of Collaborative Stakeholder Groups Recommendations on Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1, for the agenda for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee meeting on 22 March 2016.

- a) Point source discharges
 - b) Whangamarino wetland
 - c) Long term numerical objectives for rivers and lakes
 - d) Non regulatory methods (including cost sharing)
3. That the Collaborative Stakeholder Group note that progress on the following topics will be provided to Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee meeting on 22 March 2016
- a) Development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Māori land
 - b) Prioritising timing of implementation
 - c) Short term numerical and narrative objectives

2 Overview

Progress has been made on some of the eight topics listed above. Each of the sections below contains material for CSG discussion and decision as to what to put into Tiakina o tatou wai / Protecting our water. Overview of Collaborative Stakeholder Groups Recommendations on Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1, for the agenda for the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee.

Topics are:

1. Point source discharges
 - CSG sector discussion and input from WRC implementation staff on general approach, to be provided verbally to the CSG on 2-3 March.
2. Whangamarino wetland
 - CSG and TLG discussion on 26 February has been worked on by policy and Integrated Catchment Management staff, with some suggestions for wording included in this document.
3. Long term numerical objectives for rivers and lakes
 - attributes have been provided for insertion into Tiakina o tatou wai
 - attributes for lakes have been provided by TLG for insertion into Tiakina o tatou wai
4. Non regulatory methods (including cost sharing)
 - The report to CSG 26th February meeting (DM#3704163) contained some draft methods. These are included in this document.

The remainder of the topics have not been progressed enough to put in the agenda for Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee. These are:

5. Development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Māori land
 - CSG has directed this to be progressed by a CSG sub-group
6. Prioritising timing of implementation
 - Technical Leaders Group (TLG) is working on this information
7. Short term numerical and narrative objectives
 - On 26 Feb, CSG has directed TLG to work on this

3 Point sources

CSG received feedback from the Industry, Energy, Water Supply and Local Government sector representations at CSG Focus Day 26 February 2016. This included a sector feedback document (DM#3704081) and meeting notes from a sector meeting

(DM#3704077). These documents contained a set of principles and some policies drafted by the sector. WRC implementation staff gave some verbal feedback. The CSG then had a discussion on the topic which covered the following points:

- The main points in the sector feedback are around the use of Best Practicable Option (BPO), offsets and reductions required at the time of consent renewal. Note the topic of allocation was no longer a topic of discussion as allocation will be dealt in a later plan change.
- Point sources have made great progress
- Best Practical Option has some issues of interpretation – what if BPO is not enough?
- Agree point sources should be dealt with as they come up [consent renewal]
- Have to be careful with use of offset to put off upgrades, due to local impacts at the point source – use BPO ahead of offset. Offset when technology reaches its limits
- Have to consider how important the point source is, in its site

(CSG facilitation session notes DM#3710566)

Council implementation staff will be providing feedback on point sources on the day at CSG 2-3 March 2016.

4 Whangamarino wetland

Recommendations approved at CSG focus session 26 February 2016

1. CSG acknowledges that the wetland is of significance and should be recognised as such and accorded a priority in respect of addressing matters related to the four contaminants through the HRWO plan change process
2. CSG notes that while the establishment of a separate Whangamarino Wetland FMU may have merit, it is not considered appropriate to do so at this stage for the following reasons;
 - that no community or sector engagement has occurred on such a proposal and the CSG does not wish to place the collaborative and plan development processes at risk by changing FMUs without going back out to the community for feedback
 - that further technical information is required prior to considering the establishment of a separate FMU
3. CSG supports in principle narrative objectives being included in the plan change and notes that a range of regulatory and non-regulatory methods are likely to be required to address the four contaminants in respect of the Whangamarino wetland.
4. CSG notes that Whangamarino should be among the higher priority sub-catchments where property and sub-catchment plans will occur first

Narrative objectives

In the absence of data and numeric attributes, a narrative objective for Whangamarino could provide the necessary guidance for what is to be achieved. An example of a long term objective could be: By 2096, to ensure no further degradation of the Whangamarino wetland and to restore water quality.

A short term objective to address water quality in the life of the plan change could be: to halt the decline in water quality in the Whangamarino wetland, acknowledging the time required

for interventions to address the sources of contaminants entering the wetland. The importance of the low nutrient bog could be recognised with a narrative objective related to the protection of the ecosystem health within the wetland

CSG should note that a Catchment Management Plan will be constrained in effectiveness without regulatory support in terms of significant reduction in the four contaminants.

5 Long term numerical objectives for rivers and lakes

As mentioned above CSG received a hand out at CSG Focus Day 26 February containing a series of tables with numerical long term water quality limits and current state for each monitoring point, per FMU, for the rivers. These will be inserted into the policy mix report in section 10.2.1. The explanatory text in this section remains the same.

Limits for the lakes have been developed by the TLG and are provided in a handout.

Inserts to section 10.2.1 and Appendix 3 are as follows:

Insert to policy mix recommendations report
10.2.1 <u>Long term</u> Numerical river and lake water quality objectives
Appendix 3: Long term numerical water quality limits for the Waikato and Waipa River catchment
Insert the tables CSG received at CSG Focus Day 26 February 2016 DM#3706693. The Upper FMU has been included by way of example. The wording of the Lakes FMUs has been included, to go with the limits table for lakes.

Objective 1: Restoration and protection of water quality in the Upper Waikato River Freshwater Management Unit

Point and non-point source discharges to land and water are managed so that water quality in the Upper Waikato River is protected and restored by 2096, as indicated by the following numeric attribute states:

Site	Median Chlorophyll a (mg/m3)			Maximum Chlorophyll a (mg/m3)			Median Total Nitrogen (mg/m ³)			Median Total Phosphorus (mg/m ³)		
	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase
Waikato River Ohaaki Br	A		√	A	10		A		√	A		√
Waikato River Ohakuri Tailrace Br	A	2		A	10		A	160		B		√
Waikato River Whakamaru Tailrace	A	2		A	10		A	160		B		√
Waikato River Waipapa Tailrace	A	2		A	10		A	160		B	10	

Site	Median Nitrate (mg NO ₃ -N/L)			95 th percentile Nitrate (mg NO ₃ -N/L)			Median Ammonia (mg NH ₄ -N/L)			Maximum Ammonia (mg NH ₄ -N/L)			95 th percentile E. coli (E. coli/100mL)			Clarity (metres)		
	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	NOF Band	Decrease to	No increase	Band	Increase to	No decrease
Waikato River Ohaaki Br	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√
Waikato River Ohakuri Tailrace Br	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√
Waikato River Whakamaru Tailrace	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A	3.0	
Waikato River Waipapa Tailrace	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A	3.0	
Pueto Stm Broadlands Rd Br	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A	3.0	
Torepatutahi Stm Vaile Rd Br	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	-	-	-
Waio tapu Stm Homestead Rd Br	A	1.0		A	1.5		A	0.03		A	0.05		B		√	-	-	-
Mangakara Stm (Reporoa)	A	1.0		A	1.5		A		√	A	0.05		B	540		C	1.0	

SH5																		
Kawaunui Stm SH5 Br	B	2.4		A	1.5		A		√	A	0.05		B	540		B	1.6	
Waiotapu Stm Campbell Rd Br	A		√	A		√	B	0.24		A	0.05		A		√	B	1.6	
Otamakokore Stm Hossack Rd	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	B	540		B	1.6	
Whirinaki Stm Corbett Rd	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A	1.0	
Tahunaatara Stm Ohakuri Rd	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	B	540		B	1.6	
Mangaharake Stm SH30 (Off Jct SH1)	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	B	540		B	1.6	
Waipapa Stm (Mokai) Tirohanga Rd Br	A	1.0		A		√	A		√	A		√	B	540		B	1.6	
Mangakino Stm Sandel Rd	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	A	3.0	
Whakauru Stm SH1 Br	A		√	A		√	A		√	A		√	B	540		C	1.0	
Mangamingi Stm Paraonui Rd Br	B	2.4		A	1.5		A	0.03		A	0.05		B	540		C	1.0	
Pokaiwhenua Stm Arapuni - Putaruru Rd	A	1.0		A	1.5		A		√	A		√	B	540		B	1.6	
Little Waipa Stm Arapuni - Putaruru R	A	1.0		A	1.5		A		√	A	0.05		B	540		B	1.6	

Upper Waikato River FMU – current state 2010-2014

Site	Median Chlorophyll a (mg/m3)	Maximum Chlorophyll a (mg/m3)	Median Total Nitrogen (mg/m3)	Median Total Phosphorus (mg/m3)	Median Nitrate (mg/l)	95th percentile Nitrate (mg/l)	Median ammonia (mg/l)	Maximum ammonia (mg/l)	95th percentile Ecoli (Ecoli/100 ml)	Clarity Median BlackDisk (m)
Waikato River Ohaaki Br	1.5	13	134	10	0.039	0.062	0.002	0.013	70	3.83
Waikato River Ohakuri Tailrace Br	3.2	11	211	17	0.084	0.172	0.003	0.017	15	3.44
Waikato River Whakamaru Tailrace	•	•	271	20	0.101	0.230	0.003	0.010	60	1.87
Waikato River Waipapa Tailrace	4.1	25	336	25	0.164	0.320	0.007	0.017	162	1.92
Pueto Stm Broadlands Rd Br			540	93	0.450	0.530	0.003	0.009	92	1.64
Torepatutahi Stm Vaile Rd Br			625	96	0.500	0.800	0.002	0.011	216	•
Waiotapu Stm Homestead Rd Br			1860	•	1.285	1.570	0.121	0.190	281	•
Mangakara Stm (Reporoa) SH5			1580	74	1.300	1.600	0.008	0.063	1700	0.86
Kawaunui Stm SH5 Br			2990	82	2.600	3.000	0.006	0.083	2535	1.35
Waiotapu Stm Campbell Rd Br			1955	73	0.915	1.100	0.297	0.345	18	1.17
Otamakokore Stm Hossack Rd			990	144	0.740	1.190	0.006	0.024	696	1.10
Whirinaki Stm Corbett Rd			810	63	0.770	0.870	0.002	0.012	98	2.70
Tahunaatara Stm Ohakuri Rd			780	45	0.555	0.830	0.003	0.015	810	1.27
Mangaharakeke Stm SH30 (Off Jct SH1)			685	48	0.525	0.750	0.003	0.015	700	1.02
Waipapa Stm (Mokai) Tirohanga Rd Br			1355	95	1.210	1.500	0.003	0.005	1215	1.13
Mangakino Stm Sandel Rd			760	47	0.650	0.860	0.003	0.012	251	1.62
Whakauru Stm SH1 Br			470	42	0.260	0.450	0.003	0.033	2280	0.79
Mangamingi Stm Paraonui Rd Br			3495	325	2.800	3.300	0.098	0.323	2330	0.82
Pokaiwhenua Stm Arapuni - Putaruru Rd			2010	106	1.755	2.100	0.002	0.020	1455	1.26
Little Waipa Stm Arapuni - Putaruru R			1780	68	1.580	2.100	0.002	0.089	1470	1.53

Objective 5: Restoration and protection of water quality in the Peat, Lowland Riverine, Dune and Volcanic Lakes Freshwater Management Units

Point and non-point source discharges to land and water are managed so that water quality in the Peat, Lowland Riverine, Dune and Volcanic Lakes is protected and restored by 2096, as indicated by the following numeric attribute states:

6 Methods to support the regulatory mix

CSG received the report *Economic instruments and draft methods to support the regulatory mix* (DM#3687921) in the agenda pack for CSG Focus Day 26 February 2016, this was presented (DM#3704163) and discussed by CSG on the day.

CSG discussed the subsidies and funding section, and this is recorded below.

CSG have not provided any feedback on the economic instruments or comments contained in Table 1 of that report. CSG can provide any comments on 2-3 March, but staff will take this section as read, and use the reasons as part of the s32 analysis of alternative policy options.

The CSG did not discuss Section 3 Draft methods to support the regulatory policy mix, and so will be discussing them on 2-3 March 2016. Due to other discussions at 26 February 2016 a number of sections of this report needed to be updated.

All of the methods, including the method on funding and subsidies outlined below, will be discussed and agreed at CSG 2-3 March. These will be inserted in to the policy mix recommendations report to Healthy River Wai Ora (DM#3351821).

Policy staff have also provided a tracked change version of the Lakes method, with additional content contributed by council staff.

Below are the 'Draft methods to support the policy mix' with tracked changed edits to be inserted into the policy mix recommendations report.

6.1 Subsidies

CSG had a series of small group discussions, fed back to the whole group, and subsequently came to the following agreements:

- Yes the CSG should recommend that Council recommend through annual planning processes a rate be charged which raises revenue to support implementation of the Plan Change 1.
- The funds raised by the rate should be spent on:
 1. Assisting Waikato Regional Council costs for the set up of processes needed to implement Plan Change 1. This includes collecting baseline data, establishing a property management plan accreditation system, and council resource needs; and
 2. Special projects which include actions which are at the broader scale or are part of a co-ordinated sub-catchment planning process (e.g. because they provide a public benefit). Examples of such actions include constructed wetlands, lakes restoration or land retirement.
- The rate should be specific to the Waikato and Waipa River catchment, unless the rationale for the rate apply to the wider region (in which case, a region-wide rate should be levied).
- Other than the actions noted above in 2), that the funding should not be used for on farm mitigation of effects, which are regulatory requirements under the property management plan or catchment wide rule, or for any associated administration costs of resource consents which would be covered by charges to consent holder.

The reasons for the CSGs approach to cost sharing are:

- Beneficiary of improved water quality pays: the actions to be funded create public good (essentially a water quality improvement service), and the public, as beneficiaries of this public good should pay for it.
- Intergenerational equity: the state of water quality includes a legacy of past actions over a long period, and it would be inequitable to require current dischargers to bear the full cost of mitigating the effects of historic actions.
- Speed up action on the ground: funding is likely to be a barrier to the broad scale, public good-type projects, and rate-based funding will enable these projects to happen faster than otherwise would occur.
- That funds should not be directly used to mitigate the environmental effects of farming, landholder should pay to mitigate their effects on water quality.

(CSG facilitation notes DM#3710566, with staff framing)

CSG did not go on to discuss the second part of the report, which covered methods to support the regulatory mix. One of the methods was relevant to the discussion on funding, and contained a placeholder point where CSG agreement on subsidies would be inserted.

7 Providing of the development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple Māori owned land

Two reports on Māori owned land have been provided to the CSG that collated WRCs existing GIS information. The first contained an estimate of the extent of Māori owned land (Doc#3609413). More information was provided to CSG that took account of the Te Ture Whenua Land Act and the reform of the Act, and included land under general title returned under Treaty of Waitangi Settlements (Report in CSG workshop 22 in January 2016 Doc#3652739).

At the CSG focus session 26 February, a two-page report from Waikato River Iwi was discussed. The report was titled “Provision for the Development of Maori Land within the Framework of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whapaipai”. It outlined the Waikato River Iwi perspective, including the outcome sought, some of the issues around development of Maori-held Land, and some suggestions about tasks and resources for a CSG sub-group.

The CSG Māori land sub-group will progress the topic on behalf of the CSG, with a first meeting on 16 March 2016.

Tiakina o tatou wai / Protecting our water

There is a placeholder for a narrative objective providing for the development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Māori land (page 30 Section 10.2.3).

The CSG sub-group and then the CSG will make recommendations about how the Plan Change will manage land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Maori land. Depending where this gets to, the Plan Change will contain linkages from the values, objectives, policies, methods and rules that enable development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Māori land. For instance the following sections will be relevant:

- Values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers (pages 13-19)

- Outcomes (pages 28-29, particularly Outcomes 2 and 3 - Protecting and restoring Tangata Whenua values and Supporting a range of human uses)
- Objectives (page 30, particularly the specific objective 10.2.3 relating to development of land)
- Overall policy approach (page 33) and policies (page 35), with new policy direction provided setting out the course of action, and additions to policy 3 that will set out guidance about circumstances a consent may be granted for the non-complying activity for land use change)
- Rules (page 37-40, particularly the 'interim land use change rule' 9non complying activity)
- Non regulatory methods, including references to information and research needed, to assist decisions on future allocation.

8 Prioritising timing of implementation

At the CSG focus session 26 February 2016 the CSG with the TLG explored water quality targets and limits that will go into the Plan change and prioritisation to assist implementation.

The group was provided with 2 pieces of information for this discussion:

1. Draft limits information (Draft - DM#3706693 – Numerical attribute states and NOF band per site, by FMU) – for each attribute and each monitoring site. This table showed the long term desired attribute state for each monitoring site, and a separate table showing current state (this showed what state the attribute needed to remain at if the site was already better than the desired state i.e. don't decline).
 - Note (as discussed at previous CSGs): there are no limits in the tributaries for N and P. The values the Plan change seeks to protect are in the main stem for those attributes. Mitigations have to be undertaken in the sub-catchments of tributaries for no decline in N and P to achieve the limits in the main stem. This is shown in the prioritisation work.
2. Draft A3 charts for the four contaminants and a chart with the four contaminants combined with information (represented in colours) on current states, limit to get to in 80 years (scenario 1), related to manageable load for the catchment, % change to make in the catchment¹

CSG discussed this information, and requested TLG complete the following tasks:

- Include load to come for N in the A3 charts
- Look at the options for prioritising implementation, CSG idea was:
 - Use the combined ranked chart (A3 charts) and take all the red and brown shaded sub-catchments, plus any other red sub-catchments that are missed, plus Whangamarino wetland, and put further thought into which lakes should be included on first priority for implementation.

Most lakes in the Waikato Region have already been assessed for prioritisation. The Regional Policy Statement has identified a list of high value, high vulnerability lakes² that should be first priority for protection. These lakes are of existing high quality, that needs intervention to protect, and there is a greater urgency due to their vulnerability (i.e. high risk of degradation from the four contaminants). A more complete prioritised list of lakes was prepared as part of a Wildlands report³, which ranks lakes in the Waikato Region based on a set of criteria.

¹ Note load to come not included in the data provided at CSG, the TLG shall incorporate into information

² See Waikato Regional Policy Statement Decisions Version, table 8.3

³ Wildland Consultants Ltd 2011. Significant natural areas of the Waikato Region – lake ecosystems. Waikato Regional Council Technical Report 2011/05. Hamilton, Waikato Regional Council. Table 1

A 'protect first and restore second' approach will achieve more in terms of no further degradation, and requires a focus on lakes of higher water quality. The most degraded lakes in the region have reached a stable point in terms of water quality and continued high contaminant loads has little effect on their attributes. TLG are working on a fuller picture of lake prioritisation options.

9 Short term numerical and narrative objectives

A policy and TLG report on setting freshwater limits and targets was discussed at CSG workshop 21. Key points from this report:

- The long term water body limits in 80 years are something the plan change can be more confident about and therefore be shown as numeric water body limits.
- The intention is that these numeric limits will be in the plan change template as tables with numbers to be achieved in 80 years.
- Due to technical considerations and the potential inability to see a response in the system from the action on the land in a short timeframe, the suggestion was made to capture targets for short term water quality limits as narrative objectives

(DM# 3626243 setting water body targets and limits).

At CSG workshop 21, the group made some decisions on setting freshwater limits and targets. The CSG agreed to set long term numerical limits. The CSG did not agree with the recommendation in this report (DM# 3626243) about narrative short term objectives (recommendation 2 c)1) DM # 3652426) CSG21 workshop notes for 17/18 December 2015).

The CSG returned to this topic during a session with the TLG on water quality data, targets and prioritisation at the CSG focus session workshop on the 26th of February 2016. There was a conversation and clarification on the setting of short term targets in the water, including describing what the 10% along the way might look like and what narrative or indicators could be included in the plan change to support that, and numerical objectives for the 25% in 20 year timeframe.

CSG discussed this information, and requested TLG provide guidance to the CSG on:

- how to express improvement, across 4 contaminants and sub-catchments for the first 10 and 20 years. For 20 years what would numerical targets in the water and for 10 years if numerical numbers are not appropriate then what action on the land related indicators could be described in the plan?

Insert to policy mix recommendations report

10.2.2 Short term numerical and narrative freshwater objectives

13.4 Methods to support regulatory requirements

13.4.1 Working with others

Waikato Regional Council will:

- work with other parties to co-ordinate priorities, funding and physical works to assist in giving effect to the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. These parties include, but are not limited to, Waikato River Iwi partners, Waikato River Authority, Waikato River Restoration Strategy partners, Department of Conservation, territorial authorities and Fish and Game.

13.4.2 Sub-catchment scale planning

Waikato Regional Council will:

- work with other organisations to develop sub-catchment scale plans to co-ordinate the reductions required at a property and sub-catchment scale.
- facilitate the implementation of sub-catchment and catchment scale works to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and E.coli such as, but not limited to, riparian management, constructed wetlands, sediment traps and sediment detention bunds.

13.4.3 Lakes

Waikato Regional Council, working with others, will:

- build on the Shallow Lakes Management Plan by developing lake-by-lake implementation plans and investigate lake-specific options solutions to improve water quality, ecosystem health and manage pest species. In many instances, this will require an adaptive management approach.
- work towards managing the presence of pest weeds and fish in the shallow lakes and connected lowland rivers area.
- support research and testing of restoration tools and options to maintain and enhance the health of shallow lakes (e.g. lake modelling, lake bed sediment treatments, constructed wetlands, floating wetlands, silt traps, pest fish management, and farm system management tools).
- develop and disseminate best practice guidelines for reducing sediment, nutrient, and pathogens.
- support research into methods for attenuating diffuse pollution.
- support lake restoration programmes including but not limited to advice, funding, and project management. Restoration programmes may have a wider scope than water quality, including hydrological restoration, and re-vegetation and biodiversity restoration.

13.4.4 Wetlands

Waikato Regional Council, working with others, will:

- provide significant additional support and resourcing for the protection and restoration of wetlands.
- through property management plan development processes, identify and include as a mitigation action:
 - existing natural wetland ecosystem areas, and
 - areas suitable to be restored back to supporting a natural wetland ecosystem, and
 - areas suitable to be developed into a constructed wetland

where it is practicable to do so.

- assess and determine effective and efficient placement of constructed wetlands at a sub-catchment scale to improve water quality.
- seek better knowledge and understanding of the costs and benefits of changes to wetland ecosystems to support future decision making.
- analyse and document the linkages between wetlands and the opportunities to improve people's livelihoods.
- support research that addresses the management needs of wetlands, including development of techniques to monitor ecological change and forecasting evolution of wetland characteristics under the pressure of present uses.

13.4.5 Whangamarino wetland

Waikato Regional Council, working with others, will:

- raise the profile and promote the significance of Whangamarino wetland [as a RAMSAR wetland of international significance](#).
- develop a catchment plan for Whangamarino wetland and Lake Waikare
- through the review of the Waikato Regional Plan identify and protect characteristics of the wetland outside the scope of Healthy Rivers Wai Ora e.g. biodiversity.
- ~~ADD in, after hearing about Whangamarino wetland on 26th Feb 2016.~~

13.4.6 Drains

Waikato Regional Council will work with landholders to:

- integrate the regulatory requirements to fence waterways with drainage scheme management.

13.4.7 Industry⁴ assurance scheme accreditation

Waikato Regional Council, working with industry, will:

- develop parameters and minimum requirements for an accreditation process for an industry assurance scheme for industry bodies to be able to develop, certify and monitor property management plans that reduce the risk of discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and E. coli at a property scale.
- develop parameters and minimum requirements for the development of a certification process for professionals to be able to develop, certify and monitor property management plans that reduce the risk of discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and E. coli at a property scale.
- assist the wider primary industry service providers to ensure advisors have the correct training and skills.

13.4.8 Agreement and oversight to run industry assurance scheme

Waikato Regional Council, working with industry, will:

- develop and implement the industry assurance scheme processes through formal agreements between council and the industry bodies providing oversight and management of the industry assurance schemes. The formalised agreements will include, but are not limited to, information sharing, reporting on scheme implementation, aggregate reporting of scheme contribution to improvements in water quality and consistency across the various schemes.
- provide a consistent approach towards property management plan development and implementation across industry assurance schemes and consenting processes.

⁴ Industry is used to describe primary producer representative organisations such as Beef and Lamb, HortNZ, DairyNZ etc.

13.4.9 Point sources and offsetting

- ~~ADD in if needed, after hearing from point source sector 26th Feb 2016~~

13.4.910 Managing the effects of Urban development

Waikato Regional Council will:

- continue to work with territorial authorities to implement the Waikato Regional Policy Statement set of principles that guide future development of the built environment which anticipates and addresses cumulative effects over the long term.

13.4.101 Development of an allocation framework

Waikato Regional Council will:

- develop a property level (*nitrogen*) allocation framework based on the allocation principles contained in Policy X.
- make a change to the Waikato Regional Plan to allocate contaminants (*or nitrogen*) at a property level using the information gathered and based on the allocation principles contained in Policy X.

13.4.112 Technical information needs to support future allocation framework

- *TLG to provide input*

13.4.123 Environmental monitoring and accounting framework

Waikato Regional Council will:

- continue gathering water quality monitoring data from the existing river monitoring network.
- continue analysing water quality monitoring data and reporting on river water quality state and trends, including monitoring and reporting on progress towards the 80 year water quality objectives of Plan Change 1.
- continue monitoring and reporting on Macro-invertebrate Community Index as part of State of the Environment monitoring.
- establish a monitoring network for the four lake freshwater management units to establish baseline data of current state and trend analysis, and monitor progress towards the 80 year water quality objectives of Plan Change 1.

13.4.134 Funding and implementation

Waikato Regional Council will:

- provide staff resource and leadership within the organisation for the implementation of Plan Change 1 and associated recommendations.
- seek to secure funding for the implementation of Plan Change 1 and associated recommendations through the annual plan and long term plan processes.
- consider charging rates to raise funds to support implementation of Plan Change 1 subject to the following:
 - special projects which include actions that are part of a co-ordinated sub-catchment planning process and provide a public benefit should be funded by a rate specific to the Waikato and Waipa River catchments. Examples of such actions include constructed wetlands, lakes restoration and land retirement.
 - Waikato Regional Council costs to implement Plan Change 1, that can be extended to serve the entire region, should be funded by a region-wide rate. Examples of such actions include but are not limited to collecting baseline data, establishing a property management plan accreditation scheme and

council resource needs.

- no funds gathered from these rates be used to fund on farm mitigation of effects, which are regulatory requirements under the property management plan or catchment wide rules, or to any associated administration costs of resource consents.

● ~~ADD funding recommendation from CSG discussion at 26 Feb workshop.~~

13.4.145 Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Plan Change 1

Waikato Regional Council will:

- review and report on the process towards and achievement of the 80 year water quality objectives of Plan Change 1.
- research and identify methods to measure actions at a sub-catchment and property level scale and their contribution to reductions in contaminants.
- monitor the achievement of the values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa Rivers by measuring social indicators and behaviour change.
- collate data on the number of resource consents issued, property management plans completed, actions within a property management plan completed and progress towards benchmarking individual landholder leaching.
- work with industry to collate information on the functioning and success of any certified industry scheme.

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Waikato Regional Council (2016). Defining Māori Land, Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group - for Information, dated 20 January 2016. Doc#3652739.

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