

Report on the Mangatarere Catchment - Section 32 Requirements

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Background to proposed Plan Change 2 for Water Allocation in the Mangatarere catchment

Before notifying a proposed plan change, Greater Wellington is required to evaluate objectives and policies of the plan changes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act). The Council has done this evaluation in the report '*Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment*'. Council approved this report in February 2004 and it is available on the Greater Wellington website, www.gw.govt.nz/pub/index.cmf or by contacting Paul Denton on (04) 357 5707. To summarise the evaluation;

The Regional Freshwater Plan has objectives that apply to the Mangatarere catchment. These were used in the development of the *Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment*. The plan change makes no change to these objectives. And Greater Wellington is satisfied that these objectives are the most appropriate way of achieving the purposes of the Act.

The proposed change to the Regional Freshwater Plan is to Policy 6.2.1. This policy provides for flows and water allocations for catchments in the Region. The policy identifies minimum flows, core allocations, step down levels and supplementary allocations for 14 rivers and streams in the Region. It provides guidance to Greater Wellington when considering resource consent applications to take water from rivers and streams. Having regard to efficiency and effectiveness, inclusion of the Mangatarere Catchment within Policy 6.2.1 is appropriate to achieve the Regional Freshwater Plan's objective.

The costs and benefits of including the Mangatarere Catchment in Policy 6.2.1 of the Regional Freshwater Plan have been taken into account.

The main benefits are that:

- The instream freshwater resources of the Mangatarere Catchment will be safeguarded;
- Out of stream users of water resources in the Mangatarere catchment will have certainty about how much water is available when resource consents are applied for.

The main costs are that some users may be required to reduce their water takes in the future.

The *Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment* identifies the information that has been used in making these changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan. Based on the available information, the risk of including or not including the Mangatarere Catchment in Policy 6.2.1 of the Regional Freshwater Plan has been taken into account. There is sufficient and certain information about river flows and water use in the catchment to proceed with the plan change. Water use is increasing in the catchment over time. To not act now would increase the risk of water management in the Mangatarere catchment being not sustainable.