



Appendix 13A

28 February 2017

Level 1, 23 Union Street
Auckland Central
Auckland 1010
PO Box 37525, Parnell, 1151
New Zealand

T +64 (0)9 375 2400

mottmac.com

Appendix 13A

28 February 2017

Issue and Revision Record

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description

Information class: Standard

This document is issued for the party which commissioned it and for specific purposes connected with the above-captioned project only. It should not be relied upon by any other party or used for any other purpose.

We accept no responsibility for the consequences of this document being relied upon by any other party, or being used for any other purpose, or containing any error or omission which is due to an error or omission in data supplied to us by other parties.

This document contains confidential information and proprietary intellectual property. It should not be shown to other parties without consent from us and from the party which commissioned it.

Contents

Appendix 13A: Relevant Policies and Objectives	1
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014	2
Objective A1	2
Objective A2	2
C Integrated management	2
Objective C1	2
D Tāngata whenua roles and interests	2
Objective D1	2
Regional Policy Statement	4
Chapter 3.3 - Energy, infrastructure and waste	4
Chapter 3.4 Fresh water (including public access)	4
Chapter 3.6 Indigenous ecosystems	6
Chapter 3.10 Resource management with tangata whenua	7
Regional Freshwater Plan	8
General Objectives and Policies	8
4.1 Objectives	8
4.2 Policies	8
Water Quality and Discharges to Fresh Water	11
5.1 Objectives	11
5.2 Policies	11
Regional Discharges to Land Plan	14
4.1 Objectives	14
4.2 Policies	14
Regional Air Quality Management Plan	16
4.1 Objectives	16
4.2 Policies	16
Proposed Natural Resources Plan	17
3 Objectives	17
3.1 Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea	17

3.2	Beneficial use and development	17
3.3	Māori relationships	17
3.5	Water quality	17
3.6	Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai	18
3.8	Air	20
3.11	Discharges	20
4	Policies	20
4.6.1	<i>Outstanding water bodies</i>	24
4.6.2	<i>Sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value</i>	24
4.8.1	<i>Land and water</i>	25
4.8.2	<i>Discharges to water</i>	26
4.8.3	<i>Stormwater</i>	28
4.8.4	<i>Wastewater</i>	28
4.8.8	<i>Discharges to land</i>	29
4.8.11	<i>Livestock access and riparian management</i>	29
4.8.12	<i>Activities in beds of lakes and rivers</i>	29

Appendix 13A: Relevant Policies and Objectives

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014

Objective A1

To safeguard:

- a. the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems, of fresh water; and
- b. the health of people and communities, at least as affected by secondary contact with fresh water; in sustainably managing the use and development of land, and of discharges of contaminants.

Objective A2

The overall quality of fresh water within a region is maintained or improved while:

- a. protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies;
- b. protecting the significant values of wetlands; and
- c. improving the quality of fresh water in water bodies that have been degraded by human activities to the point of being over-allocated.

C Integrated management

Objective C1

To improve integrated management of fresh water and the use and development of land in whole catchments, including the interactions between fresh water, land, associated ecosystems and the coastal environment.

Policy C1: By every regional council managing fresh water and land use and development in catchments in an integrated and sustainable way, so as to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, including cumulative effects.

Policy C2: By every regional council making or changing regional policy statements to the extent needed to provide for the integrated management of the effects of the use and development of land on fresh water, including encouraging the co-ordination and sequencing of regional and/or urban growth, land use and development and the provision of infrastructure.

D Tāngata whenua roles and interests

Objective D1

To provide for the involvement of iwi and hapū, and to ensure that tāngata whenua values and interests are identified and reflected in the management of fresh water including associated ecosystems, and decision-making regarding freshwater planning, including on how all other objectives of this national policy statement are given effect to.

Policy D1: Local authorities shall take reasonable steps to:

- a. involve iwi and hapū in the management of fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region;

- b. work with iwi and hapū to identify tāngata whenua values and interests in fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region; and
- c. reflect tāngata whenua values and interests in the management of, and decision-making regarding, fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region. Regional Policy Statement

Regional Policy Statement

Chapter 3.3 - Energy, infrastructure and waste

Objective 10

The social, economic, cultural and environmental, benefits of regionally significant infrastructure are recognised and protected.

Policy 7: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – regional and district plans

District and regional plans shall include policies and/or methods that recognise:

- a. the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure including:
 - i. people and goods can travel to, from and around the region efficiently and safely;
 - ii. public health and safety is maintained through the provision of essential services: - supply of potable water, the collection and transfer of sewage and stormwater, and the provision of emergency services;
 - iii. people have access to energy so as to meet their needs; and
 - iv. people have access to telecommunication services.
- b. the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources including:
 - i. security of supply and diversification of our energy sources;
 - ii. reducing dependency on imported energy resources; and
 - iii. reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy 39: Recognising the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- a. the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of energy generated from renewable energy resources and/or regionally significant infrastructure; and
- b. protecting regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible subdivision, use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure; and
- c. the need for renewable electricity generation facilities to locate where the renewable energy resources exist; and
- d. significant wind and marine renewable energy resources within the region.

Chapter 3.4 Fresh water (including public access)

Objective 8:

Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is enhanced (objective 8 is shared for the coastal environment and fresh water).

Policy 53: Public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers – consideration

When considering an application for a subdivision consent, or a coastal or land use consent on public land, or a change, variation or review of a district plan to address subdivision or rezoning, particular regard shall be given to enhancing public access to, and along:

- a. areas of the coastal marine area, and lakes and rivers with:
 - i. places, sites and areas with significant historic heritage values identified in accordance with policy 21;
 - ii. areas of indigenous ecosystems and habitats, and areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in accordance with policy 23;
 - iii. outstanding natural features and landscapes identified in accordance with policy 25;
 - iv. special amenity landscapes identified in accordance with policy 27;
 - v. places, sites and areas with high natural character identified in accordance with policy 36; and
 - vi. the rivers and lakes identified in Table 15 of Appendix 1;
- b. Wellington Harbour and Porirua (Onepoto Arm and Pauatahanui Inlet) Harbour;

Except where there is a need to protect:

- c. sensitive indigenous habitats of species;
- d. the health or safety of people;
- e. sensitive cultural and historic heritage values; and/or
- f. the integrity and security of regionally significant infrastructure.

Objective 12: The quantity and quality of fresh water:

- a. meet the range of uses and values for which water is required;
- b. safeguard the life supporting capacity of water bodies; and
- c. meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

Policy 16: Promoting discharges to land – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that promote:

- a. discharges of human and/or animal waste to land rather than water, particularly discharges of sewage, while maintaining groundwater quality and soil health; and
- b. the use of collective sewage treatment systems that discharge to land where it is likely that individual treatment systems will not maintain groundwater quality and soil health.

Policy 40: Maintaining and enhancing aquatic ecosystem health in water bodies – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a regional or district plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- a. requiring that water quality, flows and water levels and aquatic habitats of surface water bodies are managed for the purpose of safeguarding aquatic ecosystem health;
- b. requiring, as a minimum, water quality in the coastal marine area to be managed for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing aquatic ecosystem health; and
- c. managing water bodies and the water quality of coastal water for other purposes identified in regional plans.

Objective 13: The region's rivers, lakes and wetlands support healthy functioning ecosystems.

Policy 43: Protecting aquatic ecological function of water bodies – Consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- a. maintaining or enhancing the functioning of ecosystems in the water body;
- b. maintaining or enhancing the ecological functions of riparian margins;
- c. minimising the effect of the proposal on groundwater recharge areas that are connected to surface water bodies;
- d. maintaining or enhancing the amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those with significant values listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1;
- e. protecting the significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes, including those listed in Table 16 of Appendix 1;
- f. maintaining natural flow regimes required to support aquatic ecosystem health;
- g. maintaining fish passage;
- h. protecting and reinstating riparian habitat, in particular riparian habitat that is important for fish spawning;
- i. discouraging stock access to rivers, lakes and wetlands; and
- j. discouraging the removal or destruction of indigenous wetland plants in wetlands.

Chapter 3.6 Indigenous ecosystems

Objective 16: Indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant biodiversity values are maintained and restored to a healthy functioning state.

Policy 19: Managing amenity, recreational and indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes – regional plans

Regional plans shall include policies, rules and/or methods that:

- a. maintain or enhance the amenity and recreational values of rivers and lakes, including those with significant values listed in Table 15 of Appendix 1; and
- b. protect the significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values of rivers and lakes, including those listed in Table 16 of Appendix 1.

Policy 47: Managing effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values – consideration

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, a determination shall be made as to whether an activity may affect indigenous ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and in determining whether the proposed activity is inappropriate particular regard shall be given to:

- a. maintaining connections within, or corridors between, habitats of indigenous flora and fauna, and/or enhancing the connectivity between fragmented indigenous habitats;
- b. providing adequate buffering around areas of significant indigenous ecosystems and habitats from other land uses;
- c. managing wetlands for the purpose of aquatic ecosystem health;
- d. avoiding the cumulative adverse effects of the incremental loss of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;
- e. providing seasonal or core habitat for indigenous species;
- f. protecting the life supporting capacity of indigenous ecosystems and habitats;

- g. remedying or mitigating adverse effects on the indigenous biodiversity values where avoiding adverse effects is not practicably achievable; and
- h. the need for a precautionary approach when assessing the potential for adverse effects on indigenous ecosystems and habitats.

Chapter 3.10 Resource management with tangata whenua

Objective 24: The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account in a systematic way when resource management decisions are made.

Policy 48: Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

When considering an application for a resource consent, notice of requirement, or a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, particular regard shall be given to:

- a. The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi; and
- b. Waitangi Tribunal reports and settlement decisions relating to the Wellington Region.

Policy 49: Recognising and providing for matters of significance to tangata whenua – consideration

When preparing a change, variation or review of a district or regional plan, the following matters shall be recognised and provided for:

- a. the exercise of kaitiakitanga;
- b. mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters;
- c. mahinga kai and areas of natural resources used for customary purposes; and
- d. places, sites and areas with significant spiritual or cultural historic heritage value to tangata whenua.

Regional Freshwater Plan

General Objectives and Policies

4.1 Objectives

The relationship of tangata whenua with fresh water

- 4.1.1 The relationship of tangata whenua and their culture and traditions with fresh water, and with ancestral sites, waahi tapu and other taonga within the beds of rivers and lakes, is recognised and provided for.
- 4.1.2 The mauri of water bodies and river and lake beds is protected.
- 4.1.3 The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are taken into account in the management of the Region's water bodies and river and lake beds.

Natural values

- 4.1.4 The natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, is preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.
- 4.1.5 The life-supporting capacity of water and aquatic ecosystems is safeguarded from the adverse effects of any subdivision, use and development.
- 4.1.6 Significant indigenous aquatic vegetation and significant habitats of fresh water fauna in water bodies are protected.

Amenity values and access

- 4.1.7 The amenity and recreational values of wetlands, lakes, and rivers are maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced.
- 4.1.8 The quality of lawful public access to and along river and lake beds is maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced.

Use and development

- 4.1.11 People and communities are able to use and develop freshwater resources to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well being and for their health and safety.
- 4.1.12 The adverse effects of the use and development of freshwater resources are avoided, remedied, or mitigated.
- 4.1.15 Opportunities are provided for people and communities to be involved in decision making on significant freshwater resource management issues in the Wellington Region.

4.2 Policies

The relationship of tangata whenua with freshwater

- 4.2.4 To avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of the use and development of water bodies and river and lake beds on the habitats of species traditionally harvested by the tangata whenua.

- 4.2.5 To have regard to the values and customary knowledge of the tangata whenua, where these have been identified by the tangata whenua, when assessing resource consent applications for the use and development of water bodies and river and lake beds.
- 4.2.7 To encourage and support, where appropriate, tangata whenua participation in monitoring the effects of activities that may potentially adversely affect sites or values of importance to the tangata whenua.

Natural values

- 4.2.11 To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of the use and development of water bodies and river and lake beds on aquatic habitats and freshwater ecosystems by having regard to:
- the maintenance of biological and physical processes; and
 - the maintenance of habitat for feeding, breeding and sheltering aquatic life; and
 - the maintenance of the diversity of aquatic life; and
 - the maintenance of the ability of fish to disperse and migrate; and
 - the times which will least affect feeding, spawning, dispersal or migratory patterns of fish and other aquatic species; and
 - the prevention of irreversible adverse effects.
- 4.2.12 To promote the maintenance and enhancement of aquatic habitats and ecosystems when considering the adverse effects of the subdivision, use and development of land outside river and lake beds.
- 4.2.13 To protect the nationally threatened indigenous aquatic plants identified in Part B of Appendix 3 and to protect nationally threatened freshwater fauna, in the water bodies identified in Part A of Appendix 3 by:
- managing water quality so that Policies 5.2.1 to 5.2.7, whichever is (are) relevant, is (are) satisfied; and
 - managing the flows and levels of water bodies so that Policies 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.12, and 6.2.13, whichever is (are) relevant, is (are) satisfied; and
 - maintaining migratory and dispersal pathways for fish; and
 - avoiding adverse effects on habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival (including spawning areas) of fish and birds; and
 - promoting landowner and user knowledge of nationally threatened species, the sites where they are present, and how they can be protected.

Amenity values and access

- 4.2.15 To avoid, remedy, and mitigate any adverse effects of use and development on the water bodies identified in Appendix 5 as regionally important for their amenity and recreational values, by:
- managing water quality so that Policy 5.2.4 is satisfied; and
 - managing the flows and levels of water bodies so that Policies 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.12, and 6.2.13, whichever is (are) relevant, is (are) satisfied; and
 - having particular regard to offsetting adverse effects on amenity and recreational values; and
 - having particular regard to the timing of use and development so that, where practicable, adverse effects on amenity values and recreational use are minimised.

- 4.2.16 To ensure there is no reduction in the quality of lawful public access along the beds of lakes and rivers unless exceptional circumstances arise that make restrictions necessary, including to:
- protect any characteristic of any site or feature which gives a water body its special value or any conservation value; or
 - provide for public health and safety; or
 - provide for security on private property; or
 - protect the rights of property owners, including the protection of crops and stock.

Use and development

- 4.2.23 To have regard to the benefits arising from any proposal for the use and development of a water body when assessing the proposal.
- 4.2.24 To have regard to the effects on other established activities when considering any proposal for the use and development of water bodies.
- 4.2.25 To encourage users of fresh water to adopt an ethic of guardianship for future generations.
- 4.2.26 To adopt a precautionary approach to the management of freshwater in the Wellington Region where information is incomplete or limited.
- 4.2.27 To encourage the restoration or rehabilitation of freshwater resources in the Region, including the establishment of wetlands, where appropriate.
- 4.2.29 To recognise the needs of existing lawful users of fresh water by:
- allowing existing users to upgrade progressively their environmental performance where improvements are needed to meet the provisions of the Plan; and/or
 - giving priority to existing users over new users at locations where the demand for the use of water is greater than the resource can sustain.
- 4.2.30 To work with other relevant agencies and tangata whenua in order to achieve the integrated management of fresh water
- 4.2.31 To ensure that the process for making decisions relating to the management of fresh water is fair and transparent. In particular, to ensure that as far as practicable, all interested people and communities have the opportunity to be involved in freshwater resource management processes, including significant resource consents.
- 4.2.33 To provide for those activities which have no more than minor adverse effects on the environment. As a guide, the adverse effects of activities are likely to be no more than minor if the following criteria are met:
1. the activity does not require exclusive use of the river or lake bed, and does not preclude lawful public access to, and use of, the river or lake bed (subject to the circumstances listed in Policy 4.2.16 that make restrictions necessary); and
 2. any adverse effects on plants, animals or their habitats are confined to a small area or are temporary, and the area will naturally re-establish habitat values comparable with those prevailing before commencement of the activity; and
 3. there are no significant or prolonged decreases in water quality; and
 4. there are no off-site adverse effects; and
 5. river bank or lake shoreline stability is not adversely affected; and
 6. there are no adverse effects on mahinga kai, waahi tapu, or any other sites of special value to tangata whenua; and

7. there are no adverse effects on the natural character of wetlands, and lakes and river and their margins.

4.2.35 To have regard to the following matters when determining the nature and extent of any conditions to be placed on a resource consent:

- the significance of the adverse effects arising as a consequence of, or in association with, the proposed activity; and
- the extent to which the proposed activity contributes to the adverse effects; and
- the extent to which the adverse effects of the proposed activity can be, and have been, dealt with by other means; and
- any proposals by the applicant to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, and any agreements reached at pre-hearing meetings; and
- the monitoring proposed to be carried out by the applicant; and
- the extent to which the community as a whole benefits from the proposed activity and from any proposed conditions on a consent; and
- the financial cost of complying with any conditions on a consent; and
- the extent to which a condition placed on a consent will avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.

4.2.36 To avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, conditions on a resource consent may relate to all or any of the following:

- project design and implementation, choice of materials, site improvements; or
- habitat restoration, rehabilitation, creation and improvement; or
- restocking and replanting of fauna or flora (with respect to replanting, preference will be given to the use of indigenous species, with a further preference for the use of local genetic stock); or
- works and services relating to the improvement, provisions, reinstatement, protection, restoration or enhancement of the matters listed in Policy 4.2.35; or
- the relationship between flow in a river and water quality (e.g. conditions attached to discharge permits can be flow related in respect of compliance with water quality guidelines).

Water Quality and Discharges to Fresh Water

5.1 Objectives

- 5.1.1 The quality of fresh water meets the range of uses and values for which it is required while the life supporting capacity of water and aquatic ecosystems is safeguarded.
- 5.1.2 The quality of fresh water has the potential to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.
- 5.1.3 The quality of water is, as far as practicable, consistent with the values of the tangata whenua.

5.2 Policies

Receiving Water Quality

- 5.2.1 To manage water quality in its natural state in those water bodies identified in Part A of Appendix 2 (subject to Policy 5.2.10).

- 5.2.2 To manage water quality in Lake Wairarapa in accordance with the National Water Conservation (Lake Wairarapa) Order 1989 (subject to Policy 5.2.10).
- 5.2.4 To manage water quality for contact recreation purposes in those water bodies identified in Appendix 5 (subject to Policy 5.2.10), excluding Lake Waitawa (managed according to Policy 5.2.6) and Lake Wairarapa (managed according to Policies 5.2.2 and 5.2.6)
- 5.2.6 Except for rivers and streams identified in Appendix 7, to manage the water quality of all surface water bodies in the Region for aquatic ecosystem purposes (subject to policy 5.2.10)
- 5.2.7 To manage all groundwater in the Wellington Region so that there are no net adverse affects on its quality as a result of discharges to surface water or groundwater (subject to Policy 5.2.10).
- 5.2.8 To have regard to the relevant guidelines in Appendix 8 when deciding whether a discharge is able to satisfy Policies 5.2.1 to 5.2.7 (above) when considering applications for resource consents (subject to Policy 5.2.10).
- 5.2.9 To manage the quality of the fresh water of the rivers, or parts of rivers, identified in Appendix 7 so that water quality is enhanced to satisfy the purposes identified in the Appendix (subject to Policy 5.2.10).
- 5.2.10 To allow the discharge of contaminants to fresh water which do not satisfy Policies 5.2.1 to 5.2.9, whichever is (are) relevant, only where:
1. the discharge is of a temporary nature; or
 2. the discharge is associated with necessary maintenance works; or
 3. exceptional circumstances justifying the granting of a permit; or
 4. the discharge:
 - was present at the time the Plan was notified; and
 - is not likely to cause a decrease in the existing quality of water at that site and the person responsible for the discharge has defined a programme of work for upgrading the discharge within a specified timeframe; or
 5. that in any event, it is consistent with the purpose of the Act to allow the discharge.

[5.2.10A

1. When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:
 - a. the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water including on any ecosystem associated with fresh water and
 - b. the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effect on fresh water, and on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, resulting from the discharge would be avoided.
2. When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:
 - a. the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their secondary contact with fresh water; and

- b. the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their secondary contact with fresh water resulting from the discharge would be avoided.
3. This policy applies to the following discharges (including a diffuse discharge by any person or animal):
 - a. a new discharge or
 - b. a change or increase in any discharge – of any contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result 58 Water Quality and Discharges to Fresh Water in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.
4. Paragraph 1 of this policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011.
5. Paragraph 2 of this policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 takes effect]

Mixing Zones

- 5.2.11 To ensure that any zones allowed on a discharge permit for reasonable mixing of contaminants or water with the receiving water are determined by having regard to:
- the purpose for which the receiving water is being managed, and any effects of the discharge on that management purpose; and
 - any tangata whenua values that may be affected; and
 - the volume of water or concentration of contaminants being discharged, and the area of receiving water that could potentially be affected; and
 - the physical, hydraulic and hydrological characteristics of the receiving water.

Discharges Containing Sewage

- 5.2.12 To allow a discharge containing sewage directly into fresh water without passing through land or an artificial wetland, (subject to 5.2.10), where:
- it better meets the purpose of the Act than disposal to land; and
 - there has been consultation with the tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga Maori and due weight has been given to sections 6, 7, and 8 of the Act; and
 - there has been consultation with the community generally.

Discharges to Land

- 5.2.13 To encourage users to discharge to land as an alternative to surface water where:
- the provisions of the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land are satisfied; and
 - discharging to land has less adverse environmental effects than discharging to water; and
 - there are no significant cultural, environmental, technical,

Appendix 8 Water Quality Guidelines

Refer to Appendix 13B

Regional Discharges to Land Plan

4.1 Objectives

Liquid contaminants

- 4.1.4 There is a significant reduction in contamination of surface water, groundwater and coastal water from discharges of human effluent to land.
- 4.1.5 The adverse environmental effects of discharges of liquid contaminants from point sources into or onto land are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

4.2 Policies

Discharges of human effluent

- 4.2.12 To give particular consideration to any relevant iwi management plans or statements of tangata whenua views when considering applications for the discharge of human effluent (treated or untreated) to land.
- 4.2.13 To give particular regard to the following matters when assessing applications for permits to discharge contaminants to land from reticulated sewerage systems:
1. the nature of the contaminants entering the sewerage system and being discharged from the system;
 2. whether trade wastes are present in the system, and any actions required to:
 - a. monitor the trade wastes entering the system; and
 - b. minimise the adverse effects of trade wastes on the treatment of the effluent;
 3. the extent to which stormwater is able to enter the system, and any actions required to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of system overload by stormwater;
 4. the management of the system, and any actions required to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of any accidental discharges from the system;
 5. the location of the discharge site and the hydrogeological conditions at and around the site;
 6. the extent to which the effluent is treated prior to the discharge entering any water, and any actual or potential effects of the discharge on surface water, coastal water, and groundwater (particularly in the vulnerable areas identified in Map 1);
 7. the effects of any odour or contaminant discharged into air;
 8. any actual or potential effect of the discharge on human health or amenity, and on the health and functioning of plants, animals or ecosystems;
 9. any other uses or values of the discharge site and surrounding area, including any values placed on the site by tangata whenua; and
 10. the Public Health Guidelines for the Safe Use of Sewage Effluent and Sewage Sludge on Land,²⁷ or alternative researched and documented benchmarks for assessment.
- 4.2.14 To require discharges to land from reticulated sewerage systems to be managed in accordance with a site-specific discharge management plan.

[4.2.24A

1. When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:
 - a. the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water including on any ecosystem associated with freshwater and
 - b. the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effect on fresh water, and on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, resulting from the discharge would be avoided.
2. When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:
 - a. the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their secondary contact with freshwater; and
 - b. the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their secondary contact with freshwater resulting from the discharge would be avoided.
3. This policy applies to the following discharges (including a diffuse discharge by any person or animal):
 - a. a new discharge or
 - b. a change or increase in any discharge – of any contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.
4. Paragraph 1 of this policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011.
5. Paragraph 2 of this policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 takes effect]

Regional Air Quality Management Plan

4.1 Objectives

4.1.2 Discharges to air in the Region are managed in a way, or at a rate which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while ensuring that adverse effects, including any adverse effects on:

- local ambient air quality;
- human health;
- amenity values;
- resources or values of significance to tangata whenua;
- the quality of ecosystems, water, and soil; and
- the global atmosphere;

are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

4.2 Policies

General ambient air quality management

4.2.6 To ensure that any measures adopted to avoid, remedy or mitigate the effects of discharges of contaminants to air, take account of the sensitivity of alternative receiving environments (e.g., water or soil)..

4.2.10 To adopt the following approach when placing conditions on air discharge permits:

1. to set emission limits on a discharge, where appropriate, in order to minimise its effects on ambient air quality and the surrounding environment;
2. to require, where appropriate, that the best practicable option (BPO) be adopted to prevent or minimise the adverse effects arising from discharges;
3. to minimise the emission of any of the hazardous air contaminants identified in Appendix 1;
4. to require, where appropriate, an operations manual and contingency plans relating to discharges;
5. to require, where relevant, adherence to particular guidelines or codes of practice; and
6. to require appropriate effects-based monitoring, where appropriate, which may consider a wider range of air contaminants and their effects than those listed in Appendix 2.

4.2.14 To avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects, (including on human health or amenity values) which arise as a result of the frequency, intensity, duration, offensiveness, time and location of the discharge to air of odorous contaminants.

Proposed Natural Resources Plan

3 Objectives

3.1 Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea

Objective O3 - **Mauri** is sustained and enhanced, particularly the **mauri** of fresh and coastal waters.

Objective O4 –The intrinsic values of aquatic fresh water and marine ecosystems and the life-supporting capacity of water are recognised.

Objective O5 – Fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area, as a minimum, are managed to:

- a. safeguard aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, and
- b. provide for contact recreation and Māori customary use, and
- c. in the case of fresh water, provide for the health needs of people.

3.2 Beneficial use and development

Objective O7 – Fresh water is available in quantities and is of a suitable quality for the reasonable needs of **livestock**.

Objective O9 – The recreational values of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** are maintained and enhanced.

Objective O10 – Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced.

Objective O11 –Opportunities for **Māori customary use** of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** for cultural purposes are recognised, maintained and improved.

Objective O12 – The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of **regionally significant** infrastructure and **renewable energy generation activities** are recognised.

3.3 Māori relationships

Objective O14 - Māori relationships with air, land and water are recognised, maintained and improved.

3.5 Water quality

Objective O23 - The quality of water in the region’s rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands**, groundwater and the coastal marine area is maintained or improved.

Objective O24 - Rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands** and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, including by:

- a. maintaining water quality, or
- b. improving water quality in:
 - i. significant contact recreation fresh water bodies to meet, as a minimum, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and
 - ii. coastal water to meet, as a minimum, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and

- iii. all other rivers and lakes and natural wetlands to meet, as a minimum, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.

Contact recreation and Māori customary use objectives

Table 3.1 Primary contact recreation in significant contact recreation freshwater bodies

Water body type	E. coli cfu/100mL 95th percentile ¹	Cyanobacteria		Māori customary use	Toxicants and irritants
		Planktonic ²	Benthic		
Rivers	≤ 540 at all flows below 3x median flow, September to April inclusive		Low risk of health effects from exposure	Fresh water is safe for primary contact and supports Māori customary use	Concentrations of toxicants or irritants do not pose a threat to water users
Lakes	≤ 540 September to April inclusive	≤ 1.8mm ³ /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR ≤ 10mm ³ /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria			

Table 3.2 Secondary contact with water in freshwater bodies

Water body type	E. coli cfu/100mL median ³	Cyanobacteria	
		Planktonic ²	Benthic
Rivers	≤ 1,000		Low risk of health effects from exposure
Lakes		≤ 1.8mm ³ /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR ≤ 10mm ³ /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria	

3.6 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Objective O25 - To safeguard **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** in fresh water bodies and coastal marine area:

- a. water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, and
- b. **restoration** of **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** is encouraged, and
- c. where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is improved over time to meet that objective.

Note: Where the relevant **whaitua** sections of the Plan contain an objective on the same subject matter as Objective O25 (water quality, biological and habitat outcomes), the more specific **whaitua** objective will take precedence.

1 Derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years
 2 80th percentile derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of three years data
 3 Based on a minimum of 12 data points collected over three years

Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives

Table 3.4 Rivers and streams

River class ⁴	Macrophytes	Periphyton ⁵ mg/m ² chlorophyll <i>a</i>		Invertebrates ⁶ Macroinvertebrate Community Index		Fish	Mahinga kai species
		All rivers	Significant rivers ⁷	All rivers	Significant rivers		
1 Steep, hard sedimentary	Indigenous macrophyte communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	≤ 50	≤ 50	≥ 120	≥ 130	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area
2 Mid-gradient, coastal and hard sedimentary		≤ 120	≤ 50	≥ 105	≥ 130		
3 Mid-gradient, soft sedimentary		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	≥ 105	≥ 130		
4 Lowland, large, draining ranges		≤ 120	≤ 50	≥ 110	≥ 130		
5 Lowland, large, draining plains and eastern Wairarapa		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	≥ 100	≥ 120		
6 Lowland, small		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	≥ 100	≥ 120		

Table 3.5 Lakes

Lake type	Macrophytes	Phytoplankton	Fish	Mahinga kai species	Nutrients
All lakes⁸	Submerged and emergent macrophyte communities are resilient and occupy at least one third of the lake bed that is naturally available for macrophytes, and are dominated by native species	Phytoplankton communities are balanced and there is a low frequency of nuisance blooms	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area	Total nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations do not cause an imbalance in aquatic plant, invertebrate or fish communities

4 Shown on Maps 21a to 21e.

5 The periphyton objectives for River classes 3,5 and 6 marked with an asterisk (*) shall not be exceeded by more than 17% of samples; for all other River classes, to be exceeded by no more than 8% of samples based on a minimum of three years of monthly sampling.

6 Rolling median based on a minimum of three years of annual samples collected during summer or autumn.

7.¹¹ Rivers or streams with high macroinvertebrate community health, identified in column 2 of Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes).

8 Except for intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLs), such as Lake Onoke. These should be treated as a lake when they are in a closed state. When open to the coast, they should be managed as an estuary, in which case Table 3.8 applies.

Table 3.6 Groundwater

Groundwater type	Nitrate	Quantity	Saltwater intrusion
Directly connected to surface water	Nitrate concentrations do not cause unacceptable effects on groundwater-dependent ecosystems or on aquatic plants, invertebrate or fish communities in connected surface water bodies	The quantity of water is maintained to safeguard healthy groundwater-dependent ecosystems	The boundary between salt and fresh groundwater does not migrate between fresh water and salt water aquifers
Not directly connected to surface water	Nitrate concentrations do not cause unacceptable effects on stygofauna communities or other groundwater ecosystems		

Objective O27 - Vegetated riparian margins are established and maintained.

Objective O29 - Use and development provides for the passage of fish and koura, and the passage of indigenous fish and koura is restored.

Objective O30 - The habitat of trout identified in Schedule I (trout habitat) is maintained and improved.

3.8 Air

Objective O41 - The adverse effects of odour, smoke and dust on amenity values and people's well-being are reduced.

3.11 Discharges

Objective O46 - Discharges to land are managed to reduce the runoff or leaching of contaminants to water.

Objective O49 - Discharges of **wastewater** to land are promoted over discharges to fresh water and coastal water.

Objective O50 - Discharges of **wastewater** to fresh water are progressively reduced.

4 Policies

4.1 Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management

Policy P1: Ki uta ki tai and integrated catchment management

Land and water resources will be managed recognising **ki uta ki tai**⁹ by using the principles of integrated catchment management. These principles include:

- a. decision-making using the catchment as the spatial unit, and
- b. applying an adaptive management approach to take into account the dynamic nature and processes of catchments, and
- c. coordinated management, with decisions based on best available information, and
- d. taking into account the connected nature of resources and **natural processes** within a catchment, and
- e. recognising links between environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability of the catchment.

⁹ Ki uta ki Tai means *From the mountains to the sea, inclusive of the whole catchment*

Policy P3: Precautionary approach

Use and development shall be managed with a precautionary approach where there is limited information regarding the receiving environment and the adverse effects the activity may have on this environment.

Policy P4: Minimising adverse effects

Where minimisation of adverse effects is required by policies in the Plan, minimisation means reducing adverse effects of the activity to the smallest amount practicable and shall include:

- a. consideration of alternative locations and methods for undertaking the activity that would have less adverse effects, and
- b. locating the activity away from areas identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies), Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule E (historic heritage), Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), and
- c. timing the activity, or the adverse effects of the activity, to avoid times of the year when adverse effects may be more severe, or times when receiving environments are more sensitive to adverse effects, and
- d. using **good management practices** for reducing the adverse effects of the activity, and
- e. designing the activity so that the scale or footprint of the activity is as small as practicable.

4.2 Beneficial use and development**Policy P7: Uses of land and water**

The cultural, social and economic benefits of using land and water for:

- a. aquaculture, and
- b. treatment, dilution and disposal of **wastewater** and **stormwater**, and
- c. industrial processes and commercial uses associated with the potable water supply network, and
- d. community and domestic water supply, and
- e. electricity generation, and
- f. food production and harvesting, and
- g. gravel extraction from rivers for flood protection and control purposes, and
- h. irrigation and stock water, and
- i. firefighting, and
- j. contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, and
- k. transport along, and access to, water bodies shall be recognised.

Policy P9: Public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers

Reduction in the extent or quality of public access to and along the coastal marine area and the beds of lakes and rivers shall be avoided except where it is necessary to:

- a. protect the values of estuaries, sites with significant mana whenua values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), sites with significant historic heritage value identified in Schedule E (historic heritage) and sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value identified in Schedule F (indigenous biodiversity), or
- b. protect public health and safety, or

- c. provide for a temporary activity such as construction, a recreation or cultural event or stock movement, and where the temporary restrictions shall be for no longer than reasonably necessary before access is fully reinstated, and

with respect to (a), (b) and (c), where it is necessary to permanently restrict or remove existing public access, the loss of public access shall be mitigated or **offset** by providing enhanced public access at a similar or nearby location.

Policy P10: Contact recreation and Māori customary use

The management of natural resources shall have particular regard to the actual and potential adverse effects on contact recreation and **Māori customary use** in fresh and coastal water, including by:

- a. providing water quality and, in rivers, flows suitable for the community's objectives for contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, and
- b. managing activities to maintain or enhance contact recreation values in the beds of lakes and rivers, including by retaining existing swimming holes and maintaining access to existing contact recreation locations, and
- c. encouraging improved access to suitable swimming locations, and
- d. providing for the passive recreation and amenity values of fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area.

Policy P12: Benefits of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation facilities

The benefits of **regionally significant infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** are recognised by having regard to:

- a. the strategic integration of infrastructure and land use, and
- b. the location of existing infrastructure and structures, and
- c. the need for **renewable energy generation activities** to locate where the renewable energy resources exist, and
- d. the **functional need** for port activities to be located within the coastal marine area, and
- e. **operational requirements** associated with developing, operating, maintaining and upgrading **regionally significant infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities**.

Policy P13: Existing regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation facilities

The use, operation, maintenance, and **upgrade** of existing **regionally significant infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** are beneficial and generally appropriate.

4.3 Māori relationships

Policy P17: Mauri

The **mauri** of fresh and coastal waters shall be recognised as being important to Māori by:

- a. managing the individual and cumulative effects of activities that may impact on **mauri** in the manner set out in the rest of the Plan, and
- b. providing for activities that sustain and enhance **mauri**, and
- c. recognising the role of kaitiaki in sustaining **mauri**.

Policy P18: Mana whenua relationships with Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa

The relationships between **mana whenua** and Nga Huanga o Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa) will be recognised and provided for by:

- a. having particular regard to the values and **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa huanga** identified in Schedule B (Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa), and
- b. supporting iwi-led **restoration** initiatives within **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**, and
- c. informing iwi authorities of relevant resource consents relating to **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**, and
- d. the Wellington Regional Council and iwi authorities implementing **kaupapa Māori** monitoring of **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**.

Policy P19: Māori values

The cultural relationship of Māori with air, land and water shall be recognised and the adverse effects on this relationship and their values shall be minimised.

Policy P20: Exercise of kaitiakitanga

Kaitiakitanga shall be recognised and provided for by:

- a. managing natural and physical resources in sites with significant **mana whenua** values listed in Schedule C (mana whenua) in accordance with **tikanga** and **kaupapa Māori** as exercised by **mana whenua**, and
- b. the identification and inclusion of **mana whenua** attributes and values in the kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy in accordance with Method M2, and
- c. identification of **mana whenua** values and attributes and their application through **tikanga** and **kaupapa Māori** in the maintenance and enhancement of **mana whenua** relationships with **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**.

4.5 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Policy P31: Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Aquatic ecosystem health and **mahinga kai** shall be maintained or restored by managing the effects of use and development on physical, chemical and biological processes to:

- a. minimise adverse effects on natural flow characteristics and hydrodynamic processes, and the natural pattern and range of water level fluctuations in rivers, lakes and **natural wetlands**, and
- b. minimise adverse effects on aquatic habitat diversity and quality, including the form, frequency and pattern of pools, runs, and riffles in rivers, and the natural form of rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands** and coastal habitats, and
- c. minimise adverse effects on habitats that are important to the life cycle and survival of aquatic species, and
- d. minimise adverse effects at times which will most affect the breeding, spawning, and dispersal or migration of aquatic species, and
- e. avoid creating barriers to the migration or movement of indigenous aquatic species, and restore the connections between fragmented aquatic habitats where appropriate, and
- f. minimise adverse effects on riparian habitats and restore them where practicable, and
- g. avoid the introduction, and restrict the spread, of aquatic pest plants and animals.

Policy P32: Adverse effects on aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Significant adverse effects on **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** shall be managed by:

- a. avoiding significant adverse effects, and
- b. where significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedying them and
- c. where significant adverse effects cannot be remedied, mitigating them, and
- d. where **residual adverse effects** remain, it is appropriate to consider the use of **biodiversity offsets**.

Proposals for mitigation and **biodiversity offsetting** will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G (biodiversity offsetting).

Policy P33: Protecting indigenous fish habitat

The more than minor adverse effects of activities on the species known to be present in any water body identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes) as habitat for indigenous fish species, and Schedule F1b (inanga spawning habitats), particularly at the relevant spawning and migration times identified in Schedule F1a (fish spawning/migration) for those species, shall be avoided. These activities include the following:

- a. discharges of contaminants, including sediment, and
- b. disturbance of the bed or banks that would significantly affect spawning habitat at peak times of the year, and
- c. damming, diversion or taking of water which leads to significant loss of flow or which makes the river impassable to migrating indigenous fish.

Policy P36: Effects on indigenous bird habitat

The adverse effects of use and development on the habitats of indigenous birds in the coastal marine area, wetlands and beds of lakes and rivers and their margins for breeding, roosting, feeding, and migration shall be minimised.

4.6 Sites with significant values

4.6.1 Outstanding water bodies

Policy P39: Adverse effects on outstanding water bodies

The adverse effects of use and development on outstanding water bodies and their significant values identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies) shall be avoided.

4.6.2 Sites with significant indigenous biodiversity value

Policy P40: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

Protect and restore the following ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values:

- a. the rivers and lakes with significant indigenous ecosystems identified in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), and
- b. the habitats for indigenous birds identified in Schedule F2 (bird habitats), and
- c. significant **natural wetlands**, including the **significant natural wetlands** identified in Schedule F3 (significant wetlands), and
- d. the ecosystems and habitat-types with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats).

Policy P41: Managing adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Policy P40, in the first instance activities, other than activities carried out in accordance with a **restoration management plan**, shall avoid these ecosystems and habitats.

If the ecosystem or habitat cannot be avoided, the adverse effects of activities shall be managed by:

- a. avoiding more than minor adverse effects, and
- b. where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedying them, and
- c. where more than minor adverse effects cannot be remedied, mitigating them, and
- d. where **residual adverse effects** remain it is appropriate to consider the use of **biodiversity offsets**.

Proposals for mitigation and **biodiversity offsets** will be assessed against the principles listed in Schedule G (biodiversity offsetting). A precautionary approach shall be used when assessing the potential for adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values.

Where more than minor adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Policy P40 cannot be avoided, remedied, mitigated or redressed through **biodiversity offsets**, the activity is inappropriate.

Policy P42: Protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values

In order to protect the ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values identified in Policy P40, particular regard shall be given to managing the adverse effects of use and development in surrounding areas on physical, chemical and biological processes to:

- a. maintain ecological connections within and between these habitats, or
- b. provide for the enhancement of ecological connectivity between fragmented habitats through **biodiversity offsets**, and
- c. provide adequate buffers around ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values, and
- d. avoid cumulative adverse effects on, and the incremental loss of the values of these ecosystems and habitats.

4.7 Air Quality

Policy P55: Managing air amenity

Air quality amenity in urban, rural and the coastal marine areas shall be managed to minimise offensive or objectionable odour, smoke and particulate matter, fumes, ash and visible emissions.

4.8 Discharges to land and water

4.8.1 Land and water

Policy P62: Promoting discharges to land

The discharge of contaminants to land is promoted over direct discharges to water, particularly where there are adverse effects on:

- a. aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, or
- b. contact recreation and Māori customary use.

Policy P66: National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management requirements for discharge consents

When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority shall have regard to the following matters:

- a. the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water including on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, and
- b. the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effects on fresh water, and on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, resulting from the discharge would be avoided, and
- c. the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their secondary contact with fresh water, and
- d. the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effects on the health of people and communities as affected by their secondary contact with fresh water resulting from the discharge would be avoided.

This policy applies to the following discharges (including a diffuse discharge by any person or animal):

- e. a new discharge, or
- f. a change or increase in any discharge
of any contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.

Sections (a) and (b) of this policy do not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011. Sections (c) and (d) of this policy do not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 took effect (1 August 2014).

4.8.2 Discharges to water

Policy P67: Minimising effects of discharges

The adverse effects of discharges of contaminants to land and water will be minimised by:

- a. avoiding the production of the contaminant, and/or
- b. reusing, recovering or recycling the contaminant, and/or
- c. minimising the volume or amount of the discharge, and/or
- d. using land-based treatment, constructed wetlands or other systems to treat contaminants prior to discharge where appropriate, and
- e. irrespective of actions taken in accordance (a) to (d) above, where a discharge is a **point source discharge** to a river or stream, the discharge achieves the water quality standards in Policy P71 after reasonable mixing.

Policy P70: Managing point source discharges for aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Where an objective in Table 3.4, Table 3.5, Table 3.6 or Table 3.8 of Objective O25 is not met, **point source discharges** to water shall be managed in the following way:

- a. for an existing activity that contributes to the objective not being met, the discharge is only appropriate if:

- i. the application for resource consent includes a defined programme of work for upgrading the activity, in accordance with **good management practice**, within the term of the resource consent, and
 - ii. conditions on the resource consent require the reduction of adverse effects of the activity in order to improve water quality in relation to the objective within the term of the consent, and
- b. for a new activity, the discharge is only appropriate if the activity would not cause the affected fresh water body or area of coastal water to become any worse in relation to the objective.

In assessing the appropriateness of a new or existing discharge, the ability to **offset residual adverse effects** may be considered.

Policy P71: Quality of discharges

The adverse effects of **point source discharges** to rivers shall be minimised by the use of measures that result in the discharge meeting the following water quality standards in the receiving water after the **zone of reasonable mixing**:

- a. below the discharge point compared to above the discharge point:
 - i. a decrease in the Quantitative Macroinvertebrate Community Index of no more than 20%, and
 - ii. a change in pH of no more than ± 0.5 , and
 - iii. a decrease in water clarity of no more than:
 - iv. 20% in **River class 1**, or
 - v. 33% in **River classes 2 to 6**, and
 - vi. a change in temperature of no more than:
 - 1. 2°C in **River classes 1 or 2**, or
 - 2°C in any river identified as having high macroinvertebrate community health in Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), or
 - 3°C in any other river, and
- b. a 7-day mean minimum dissolved oxygen concentration of no lower than 5mg/L, and
- c. a daily minimum dissolved oxygen concentration of no lower than 4mg/L.

All water quality standards apply at all flows except (a)(iii) which applies at less than **median flows**, (a) applies at all times of the year, (b) and (c) apply only between 1 November and 30 April each year.

Policy P72: Zone of reasonable mixing

Where not otherwise permitted by a rule, the **zone of reasonable mixing** shall be minimised and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In determining the **zone of reasonable mixing**, particular regard shall be given to:

- a. acute and chronic toxicity effects, and
- b. adverse effects on aquatic species migration, and
- c. efficient mixing of the discharge with the receiving waters, and
- d. avoiding a site with significant **mana whenua** values identified in Schedule C (mana whenua), and
- e. the identified values of that area of water, and
- f. avoiding significant adverse effects within the **zone of reasonable mixing**.

4.8.3 Stormwater

Policy P76: Minimising wastewater and stormwater interactions

The adverse effects of **wastewater** and **stormwater** interactions on fresh and coastal water shall be minimised by:

- a. avoiding **wastewater** contamination of **stormwater** from new **wastewater networks** or connections authorised after the date of public notification of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (31.07.2015), and
- b. reducing **wastewater** contamination of **stormwater** from the existing **wastewater network**, and
- c. progressively reducing **stormwater** and groundwater infiltration and inflow into the **wastewater network** so that untreated **wastewater** only overflows to water during heavy rainfall events.

4.8.4 Wastewater

Policy P80: Replacing wastewater discharge consents

Applicants replacing **existing resource consents** to discharge **wastewater** to fresh water and coastal water shall identify:

- a. the objectives, limits, targets, discharge standards or other requirements set out in the Plan relevant to **wastewater** discharges to water, and
- b. the results of consultation with the community and **mana whenua** on their values and interests in relation to discharges and receiving waters, including adverse effects on **Māori customary use** and **mahinga kai**, and
- c. in response to consultation with the community and **mana whenua**, the short-term and long-term goals for **wastewater** discharges to water, where short-term goals are within the lifetime of the Plan and long-term goals are beyond the lifetime of the Plan, and
- d. how the short- and long-term goals for **wastewater** discharges to water will satisfy provisions of the Plan, and
- e. infrastructure changes needed to meet long-term goals for **wastewater** discharges to water, including key milestones and dates.

Policy P81: Minimising and improving wastewater discharges

The adverse effects of **existing discharges** of **wastewater** to fresh water and coastal water shall be minimised, and:

- a. in the case of **existing discharges** to fresh water from **wastewater** treatment plants, the quality of discharges shall be progressively improved and the quantity of discharges shall be progressively reduced, and
- b. in the case of **existing discharges** to fresh water or coastal water from **wastewater networks** during or following rainfall events, the frequency and/or volume of discharges shall be progressively reduced.

Policy P82: Mana whenua values and wastewater discharges

Reasonable steps shall be taken to reflect **mana whenua** values and interests in the management of **wastewater** discharges and receiving waters, including adverse effects on **Māori customary use** and **mahinga kai**.

4.8.8 Discharges to land

Policy P95: Discharges to land

The discharge of contaminants to land shall be managed by:

- a. ensuring the discharge does not result in more than minor adverse effects to soil health, and
- b. avoiding discharges that would create **contaminated land**, and
- c. not exceeding the natural capacity of the soil to treat, use or remove the contaminant, and
- d. not exceeding the available capacity of the soil to absorb and infiltrate the discharge, and
- e. minimising effects on public health and amenity, and
- f. not resulting in a discharge that enters water.

4.8.11 Livestock access and riparian management

Policy 101: Management of riparian margins

In order to maintain or restore **aquatic ecosystem health** and natural character, and reduce the amount of sediments and nutrients entering **surface water bodies**, good management of riparian margins shall be encouraged including:

- a. the exclusion of **livestock**, and
- b. the planting of appropriate riparian vegetation, and
- c. the management of pest plants and animals.

4.8.12 Activities in beds of lakes and rivers

Policy P105: Protecting trout habitat

Particular regard shall be given to the protection of trout habitat in rivers with important trout habitat identified in Schedule I (trout habitat). The effects of use and development in and around these rivers shall be managed to:

- a. maintain or improve water quality in accordance with the objectives in Table 3.4 and Table 3.5 of Objective O25, and
- b. minimise changes in flow regimes that would otherwise prevent trout from completing their life cycle, and
- c. maintain the amount of pool, run and riffle habitat, and
- d. maintain fish passage for trout, and
- e. minimise adverse effects on the beds of trout spawning waters identified in Schedule I (trout habitat).