

Water management and urban development

Stebbings Structure Plan workshop 17 August 2018

Community expectations

- Water quality a top issue last election
- New Zealand lifestyle
 - Swimming, fishing, mahinga kai

Porirua community expectations

- Improving the Harbour dominated 2018 PCC Long Term Plan submissions
- Survey - 89% residents said Harbour and streams are “unhealthy”

Porirua Harbour



Stressors

- Sediment
- Wastewater and Stormwater pollution
- Pathogens and contaminants

Porirua Harbour



Porirua Streams



Taupo Stream – 50m from Porirua Harbour

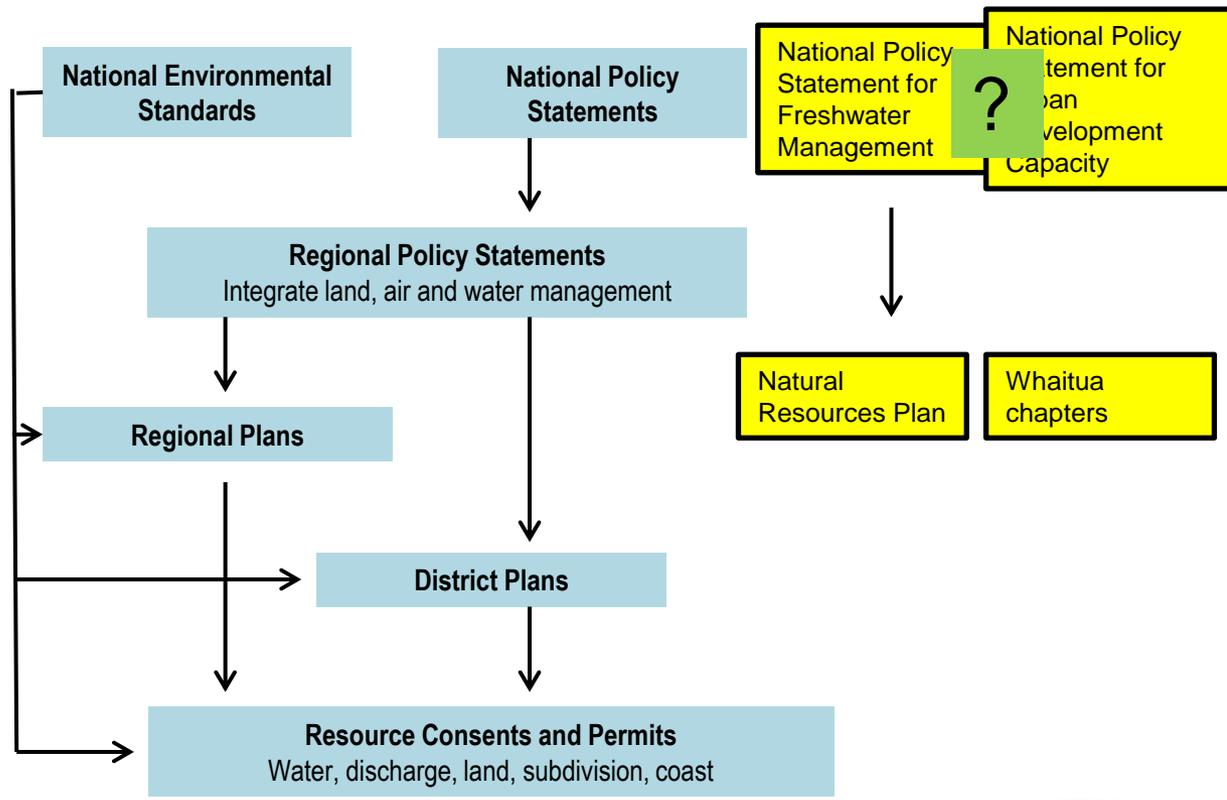


Resource Management Act

Central Government

Regional Councils
Soil, water, air, pollution and coast

District Councils
Land, subdivision and noise

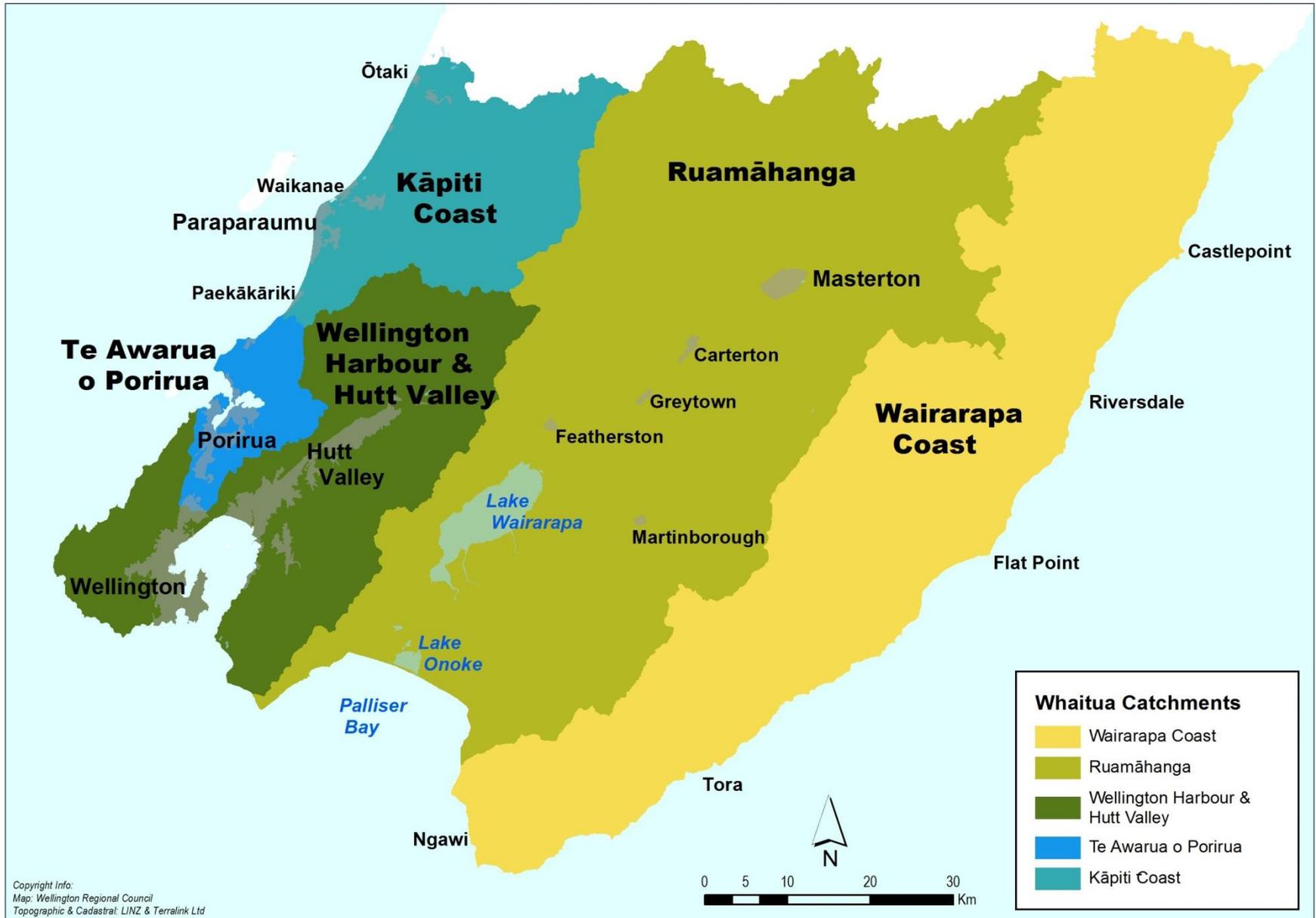


Giving effect to National Policy for Freshwater Management

Setting freshwater objectives and limits (for water takes and discharges) in regional plans which must:

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Meet national bottom lines
- Avoid over allocation
- Reflect mana whenua values and interests

Whaitua / Catchments

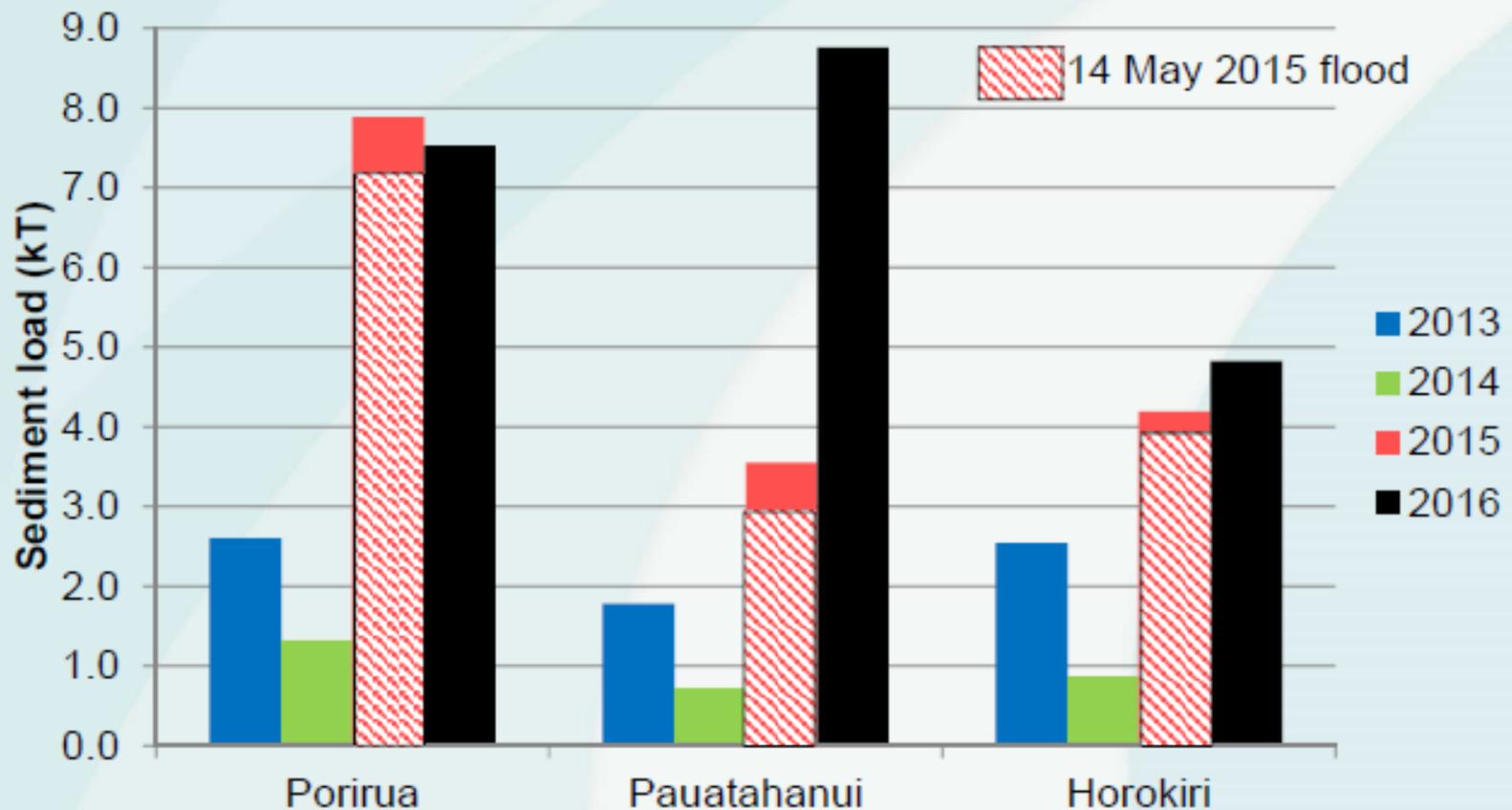


Draft objectives and modelling results – Stebbings Stream

	Attributes	Current state	Draft objective	Minimum scenario to achieve the objective	Reasons identified by committee
Stebbings Stream	<i>E.Coli</i>	E	C	WS	Change in land use rural to urban
	Nitrate toxicity	C	B	BAU	Change in land use rural to urban
	Ammonia Toxicity	B	B	BAU	Change in land use rural to urban
	Dissolved zinc	A	A	WS+	
	Dissolved Copper	A	A	WS+	
	MCI	C	B	Imp	
	Periphyton	C	B	Imp	
	Native Fish	B	A	Imp	Fish barriers



Catchment sediment loads



Collective problem

- Cumulative impacts
- Breached environmental limits
- Institutional failure

Challenges for urban development

- Maintain or improve water quality
- Population growth
 - more houses, cars, infrastructure
- Land developers need to make a return on investment
- Wellington – most liveable city

Collective solutions

- GWRC
- Councils
- Wellington Water
- Community
 - Iwi
 - Public
 - Developers

What GWRC is doing

- Working closely with councils and Wellington Water
- Community-led decision-making
- Reviewing flood management practices
- Setting contaminant discharge limits
- Consenting urban development from water perspective
- Consenting discharges from existing infrastructure

Urban development policy

- Creating space for new developments through improvements in other areas
- Changing practices and subdivision design (water sensitive urban design)
- Aligned regional, district and infrastructure planning
 - Agreement on where new development will go
 - Alignment on what is ‘good’ development
 - Brown fields are big opportunities
- Two stages to projects (construction/post construction)