

Developing ecological health freshwater objectives – engagement material

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (the Committee) is about to start developing their ecological health freshwater objectives. To assist this process a number of comments from engagement with the community in 2015 and 2016 have been identified by searching for terms such as periphyton, ecosystem, habitat, mahinga kai, indigenous fish and plants, and other language around providing for healthy ecosystems. We've then grouped these by place below. This information provides a flavour of community feedback and is not exhaustive. All feedback can be found on the website at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/community-input/>.

Consistent themes across the whole catchment

Planting more native plants along our waterways Encourage biodiversity through planting	Masterton Meeting – 2015 Gladstone Meeting – 2015 Kopuaranga Meeting – 2015 & 2016 Pirinoa Meeting – 2015 & 2016 Brochure responses – 2016 Featherston Meeting – 2015
More wetlands. Wetland restoration	Gladstone Meeting – 2015 Featherston Meeting – 2015 Masterton Meeting – 2015 Brochure responses – 2016 Martinborough Meeting - 2016
Protection of native fish Wish for greater abundance	Masterton Meeting – 2015 Carterton Meeting – 2015 Martinborough Meeting - 2016
Need to protect fish life by maintaining habitat diversity in rivers	Featherston Meeting - 2016
Cool, shaded streams	Carterton Meeting – 2015
Healthy ecosystems including fish, people, birds	Featherston Meeting – 2015

Kopuaranga

More parts of the river cleaned out of willows	Kopuaranga Meeting - 2015
Removal of silt	Kopuaranga Meeting - 2015
Clean water and healthy aquatic life	Kopuaranga Meeting - 2015
Corridors for biodiversity and for us. Connection to headwaters and back down to sea. Fish can come from sea to mountains	Kopuaranga Meeting - 2015

Tararuas

More predator and pest plant protection – to protect the river we must protect the land – even in the Tararuas	Masterton Meeting - 2015
Native fish spawning	Carterton Meeting - 2015

Eastern hills

Remove crack willow to open up channels, flood capacity while maintaining banks	Masterton Meeting – 2015
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Less trout, more eels, native fish	Masterton Meeting – 2015
Mahinga Kai, everywhere	Masterton Meeting – 2015
Better habitat for biodiversity for fish	Carterton Meeting - 2015
Rocky Hills biodiversity site	Carterton Meeting – 2015

Gladstone

Need for cool water – wildlife, Koura, fish, fowl will return. Shingle bottom/gravel bottom.	Gladstone Meeting - 2015
Want heaps of fish and invertebrates.	Gladstone Meeting - 2015

Valley floor

Native riparian plantings to achieve a lower average water temperature for aquatic (native) life	Masterton Meeting - 2015
Migrating fish are able to migrate	Masterton Meeting - 2015
MCI of at least 100	Carterton Meeting - 2015

Urban areas

Keep rubbish out of water ways	Masterton Meeting - 2015
Want to walk the dog without it dying from toxic algae	Carterton Meeting – 2015
Collecting watercress from creeks, eeling and collecting kakahi – other native fish species	Carterton Meeting – 2015

Wairarapa Moana

Re-establish tuna population. Wairarapa Moana	Masterton Meeting – 2015 Carterton Meeting - 2015
Removing pest fish species that are pests to native fish	Masterton Meeting – 2015
Remove invasive species along lake edge (plants)	Masterton Meeting – 2015
Re-divert the river back into Lake Wairarapa. Flush sediment, cool lake, improve habitat.	Carterton Meeting – 2015 Martinborough Meeting – 2016 Featherston Meeting - 2016
Breeding place for native fish	Carterton Meeting – 2015
Control periphyton	Masterton Meeting – 2015
Better access for eels to get to the Ruamāhanga	Featherston Meeting - 2015

Pirinoa

White bait needs staging to get up rivers through holes.	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Silting up – metaling up affects fish population.	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Loss of habitat of fish. 1000lbs to 1lbs of whitebait. Wetlands and vegetation ecosystem health.	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Bring back swamps	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Lake Onoke should become a wetland/filter	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Fenced river/wetlands	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Wildlife return close to original state. Larger spawning areas.	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015
Reconnecting Wetlands – oxbows – e.g. Ruamahanga confluence.	Pirinoa Meeting - 2015

In addition to the engagement material collected by the Committee, a survey by Greater Wellington Regional Council was run from April to May 2015 asking about river and coastal recreational use in the Wellington Region. Respondents were asked what put them off getting into the water. The results shown below are useful when considering how algae and slime may affect people recreating in waterbodies.

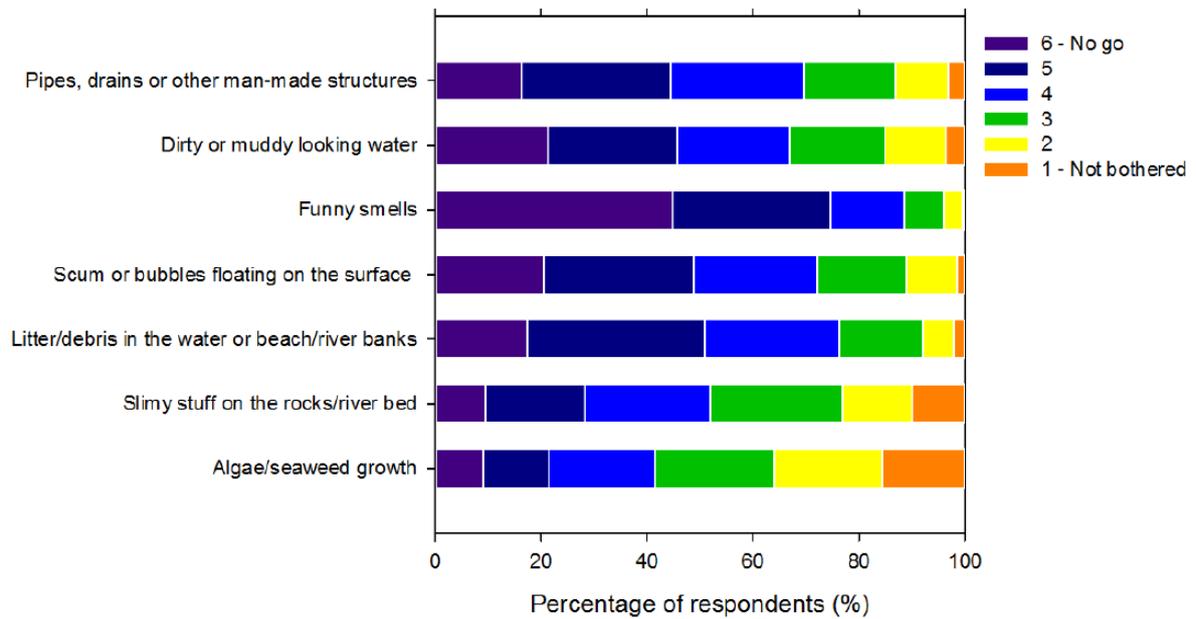


Figure 14: The degree to which each of seven factors put people off getting in the water based on the percentage of respondents that rated them on a scale of 1 to 6