Bay of Plenty Regional Freshwater Management Framework 2015

Te Pou Tarāwaho Whakahaere Wai Māori o Te Rohe o Toi Moana

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL TOI MOANA

Our freshwater sustains life, mauri and prosperity into the future

Contents

Managing Freshwater

Community expectations combined with Central Government policy direction and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management are changing the way we manage freshwater. Water management has always been of vital importance and this will not change. What is changing is the process of how we identify the values and limits that guide water use.

As we continue to find out more about freshwater – what it can do for us, what it protects, what its values are, and how we can cause it harm – we need to adjust how we manage it. It is the Bay of Plenty's treasure and taonga.

This Framework is a step on the path to improve freshwater management in the Bay of Plenty. It gathers together existing information and summarises current approaches for how the Bay of Plenty's water is managed at a regional level - and for how the ongoing national water reforms will be implemented. The Framework will be used to support a more focussed programme of action.

The community has determined the core elements of this Framework through being involved in the development of various regional statutory and non-statutory documents. This has occurred through consultation and submission processes, working parties, co-governance forums and other community involvement opportunities. These elements have been pulled together from documents such as:

- Regional Policy Statement
- Regional Water and Land Plan
- Tarawera River Catchment Regional Plan
- Western Bay Water Sustainability Strategy
- Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua district
- Te Ara Whanui o Rangitāiki - Pathways of the Rangitāiki
- Kaituna River and Ōngātoro/Maketū Estuary Strategy
- Ōhiwa Harbour Strategy
- Bay of Connections economic strategies
- Long Term and Annual Plans.

This Framework does not mark the end of community involvement but rather sets the scene for what is yet to come. There are still many decisions for communities to be part of and future planning and management will be underpinned by community discussions about how the community wants its freshwater to be.

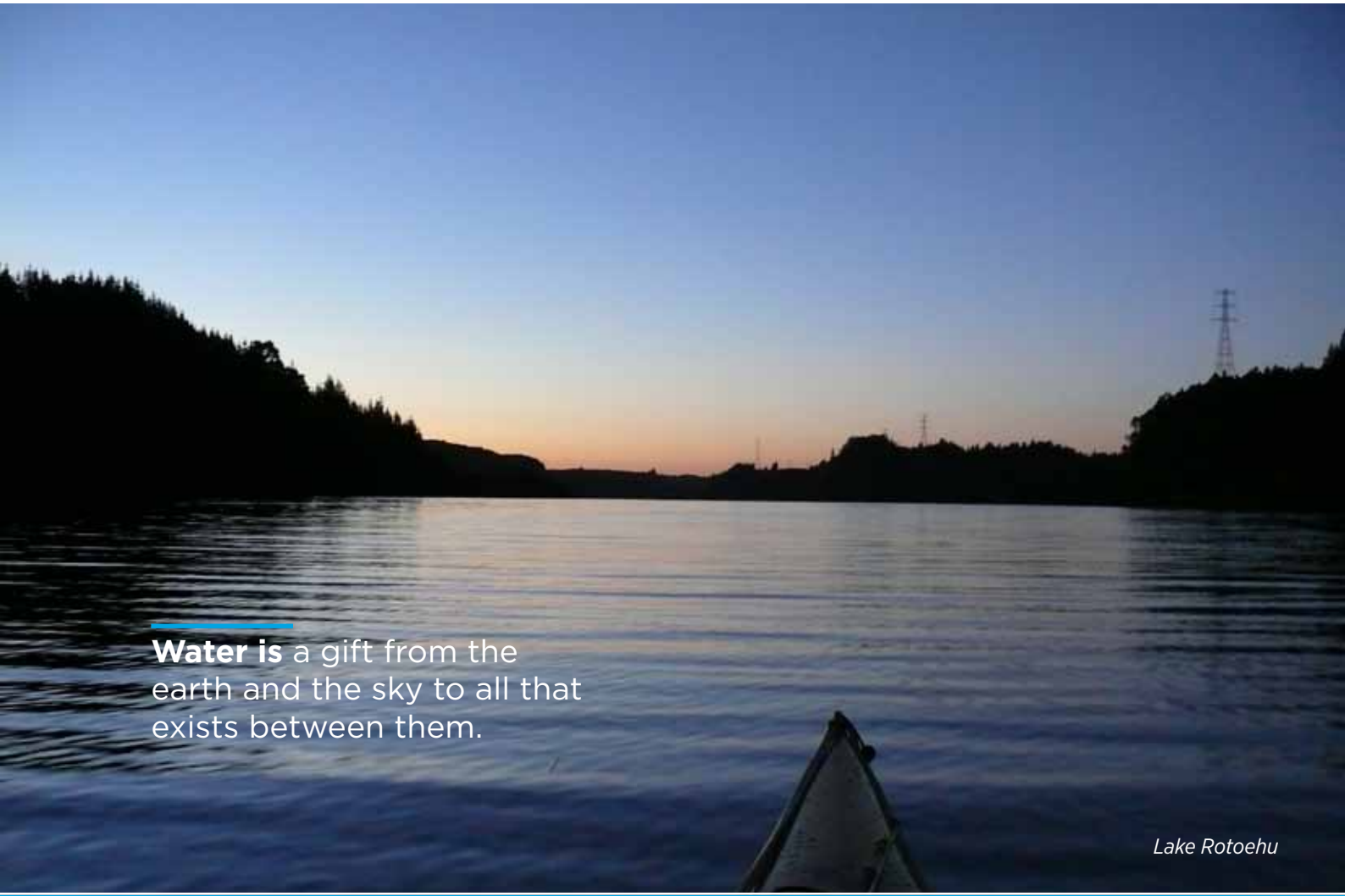
Throughout the region, communities will have to consider the implications of their value choices on water quality and quantity. These values will need to be discussed within the context of the long term trends in their water management area (e.g. land use, settlement patterns, employment, natural hazards and climate change).

Freshwater is vital for the health of people and communities and is the life-blood of the natural environment.

Water and Land, Land and Water

It is not possible or desirable to separate how land is used from how water is managed. How we manage and allocate freshwater, impacts on how land can be used. How land is managed has a hugely significant impact on the quality and quantity of freshwater resources.

Recognition of this relationship is an important part of the process of identifying the values we are seeking for our freshwater resources. Understanding the interdependencies and complexities within the relationship will be integral to finding a sustainable water future.



Lake Rotoehu

Matakitenga, Ngā Uara me ngā Mātāpono Ārahi

Matakitenga

Kei te wai māori te pūmautanga o te ora, te mauri me te tōnuitanga

Ngā Uara ā-Rohe

E tino uaratia ana e tātau te wai māori. He whānui ngā take e tino kaingākautia ana e tātau te wai māori mai i ngā uara pāpori, ahurea, taiao, ōhanga hoki ka mutu he rerekē tōna tikanga ki ngā tangata rerekē.

Ahakoa te rerekē o ngā uara me te hiranga o te wai i waenga i te tangata, i ngā wāhi me ngā rōpū wai hoki, he mea tino nui kia whakaūhia ēnei uara hei tohu, hei whakaatu hoki i ngā urupare whakahaere wai māori tōtika.

E whakahiato mai ana tēnei wāhanga i ngā uara kua tohua e te iwi whānui o te rohe o Toi Moana mō te wai mā ngā hātepe maha. Kua tohua ēnei uara ā-rohe mā te tuitui katoa mai i ngā kaupapa i roto i ngā puka tuhinga matua hei waihanga i tētahi tauākī kōrero mō te āhuatanga ake o te wai māori i roto i te rohe.

Ngā mātāpono ārahi

Ko ngā mātāpono e whai ake kei te ārahi i ā mātau mahi whakahaere i te wai māori. Hei whakatutuki i tā tātau matakitenga, ko tā mātau ka:

- Arotahi ki ngā hua – te tiaki i te wai kia noho pai tonu me te whakapai ake i ngā wāhi e hiahiatia ana
- Ngākau tuwhera – he mahi ngātahi me ō tātau hapori kia ū ai te mahi tiaki i te wai ki te katoa
- Noho hei kaitiaki mō te wai – he whakahaere mo ngā whakatipuranga o muri mai
- Whai i ngā mōhiotanga pai rawa – he tuwhera ki ngā rongoā whānui rawa
- He āta mahi - ina pā mai ngā āhuatanga kumukumu
- Kakama – kia urutau ki te huri o ngā kōrero, ngā āhuatanga ōhanga me ngā hangarau
- Manaaki – ka whakamahi i te wai māori kia pūmau tonu, kia tōtika tonu

E uaratia ana e tātau...

E hāpai ana te wai māori i te ora me te oranga o te iwi me ngā pūnaha rauropi

He pai te wai māori hei whakamahi ina hiahia ana tātau

E āhukahukatia ana te hiranga ā-kite, ā-tinana hoki o te wai māori

E tohu ana te wai māori i ngā huanga taha wairua, ahurea, hītori hoki

He tino tāonga tuku iho te wai māori ki te iwi Māori

Ko te wai māori he wāhi pārekareka

He pātaka kai te wai māori

He tautoko, he hāpai te wai māori i ngā whakaputaranga o te whenua

He tōnuitanga kei te wai māori mō ō tātau hapori

He tūhonohono te wai māori i te tangata ki ngā wāhi, ā-wairua, ā-tinana

He whakamahi kia pūmau tonu te wai māori, kei moumoutia

Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

Vision

Our freshwater sustains life, mauri and prosperity into the future

Regional Values

There is no question that we value freshwater. What we treasure about freshwater covers the spectrum of social, cultural, environmental and economic values and can mean different things to different people.

Although values and their importance will vary between people, places and water bodies, establishing these values is essential to identifying and implementing appropriate freshwater management responses.

This section brings together the values that the Bay of Plenty community have identified for water through a number of processes. These regional values have been identified by weaving together the elements contained within key documents to provide a statement of what our freshwater should be in the region.

Guiding principles

The following principles guide our approach to freshwater management. To achieve our vision, we will be:

- Focussed on outcomes - maintaining freshwater where its good and improving it where necessary
- Inclusive – working together with our communities to enable a shared responsibility for water
- Kaitiaki of water – managing it for future generations
- Grounded in best knowledge - open to a full range of solutions
- Precautionary in our approach – when dealing with uncertainty
- Agile – able to adapt to changing information, economic conditions and technology
- Responsible – using freshwater sustainably and efficiently

We Value that...

Freshwater supports the life and health of people and ecosystems

Freshwater is safe to use when we need to use it

Freshwater's visual and physical importance is recognised

Freshwater embodies spiritual, cultural and historical qualities

Freshwater is an ancestral taonga of significance to Māori

Freshwater provides for recreational experiences

Freshwater is a food basket

Freshwater supports and enhances the productivity of the land

Freshwater provides for our communities to prosper

Freshwater provides connections for people with places and to places

Freshwater is used sustainably and not wasted

Our Region

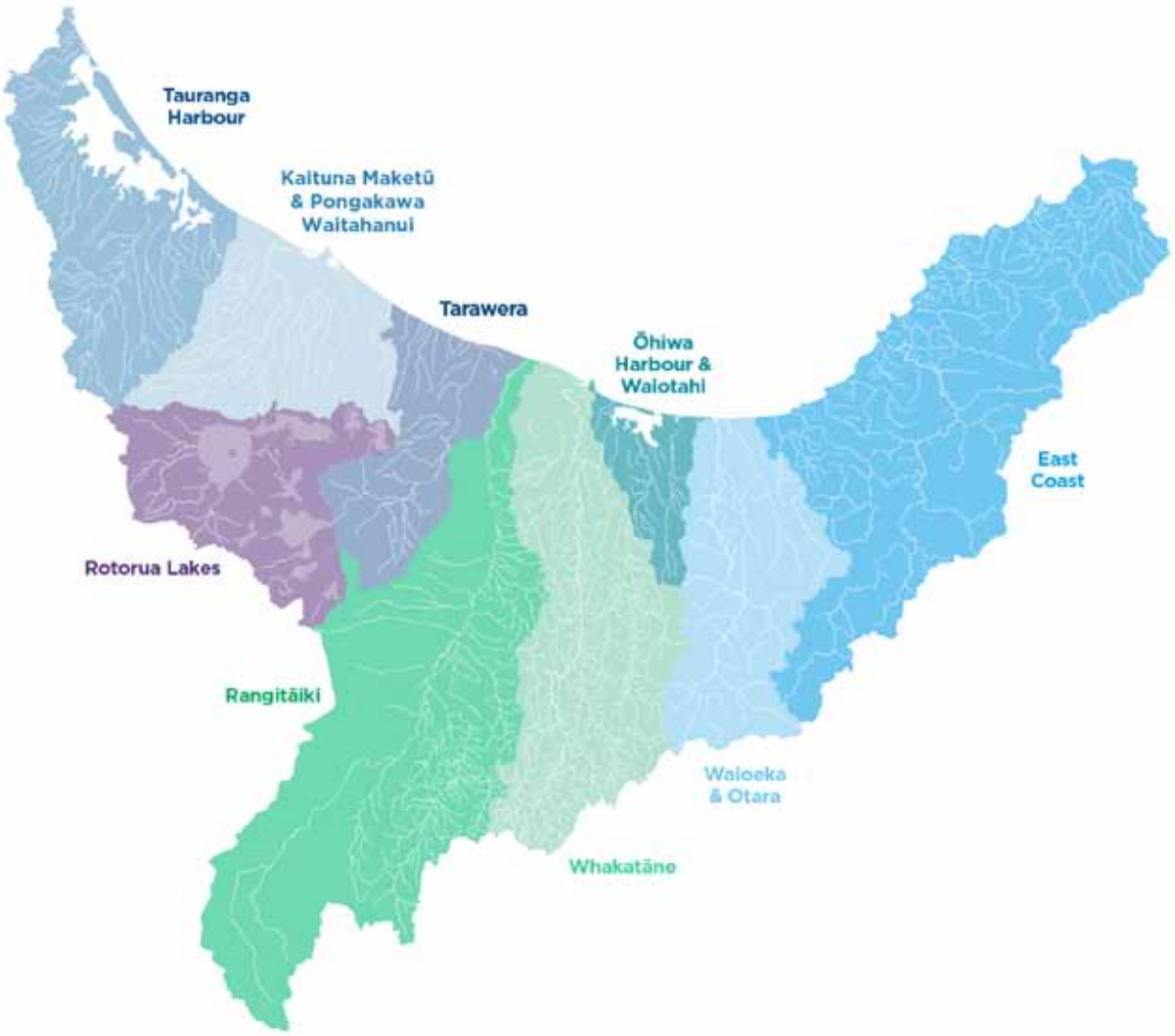
This Framework defines how freshwater will be managed across the Bay of Plenty region.

The Bay of Plenty is on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand. The region takes in the full sweep of the coastline from Lottin Point in the east, to Waihī Beach in the west and extends inland, generally to the ridge of the catchments which drain into the Bay of Plenty. This includes the lakes in the Rotorua district.

The furthest point from the coast, the top of the Rangitāiki River catchment, is 139 kilometres from the sea. The eight major rivers emptying into the Bay are the Wairoa, Kaituna, Tarawera, Rangitāiki, Whakatāne, Waioeka, Mōtū and Raukōkore Rivers.

Nine Water Management Areas have been identified for the Bay of Plenty region. These areas have been formed based on a range of factors such as physical surface catchments, outcomes of Treaty settlements, major project areas and communities of interest (e.g. towns).

The boundaries of these areas are not seen as a strict line that cannot be crossed. Cross-boundary collaboration and management will be essential given water quality and quantity issues do not stay within boundaries.



Our Region
Issues and Key Challenges

Freshwater is vital for the health of people and communities and is the life-blood of the natural environment. Water is essential to support our agricultural, horticultural, commercial, industrial and recreational activities.

The uses and demands for freshwater are increasing. While our water resources are renewable, they are finite. The many challenges that exist in maintaining and protecting our freshwater highlight the need for an integrated approach. We all share the responsibility to ensure we care for our freshwater resources for the sake of our communities, the economy and the environment.

Significant issues for the management of freshwater resources in the Bay of Plenty Region include:

Quantity - There is increasing pressure on finite water resources. As communities grow the demand for water intensifies. We know that water allocation is an issue in some areas of the Bay of Plenty. Avoiding future over allocation and phasing out existing over allocation is a key requirement of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management as is improving and maximising efficient allocation and use.

The amount of water taken for municipal supply, horticultural production, frost protection, industrial uses and farm pasture irrigation has increased significantly in the past 10 years. As groundwater and surface water become more limited the competition builds for this resource. Compounding this issue is incomplete knowledge of many of the region's water resources which restricts the ability to determine the amount of water available for allocation.

Much better information and more strategic, long term planning across the region is required to identify changing demand for municipal and productive sector water use and the implications of climate change.

Quality - Freshwater resources are under pressure with water quality declining and the mauri of water degraded in parts of the region. Currently, the primary cause of decline is from non-point source discharges from agricultural and urban land use activities.

The over-abstraction of water is also degrading the quality of some water resources with adverse effects including deterioration in mauri, ecological, recreational and amenity values.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management sets objectives for the management of the quality of freshwater, wetlands and identification of outstanding water bodies.

Land use - The intensification of land use across the region poses certain risks to water quality, in particular where intensification moves land use from low nutrient loss activities to those with a higher nutrient loss. Within the context of economic drivers operating around land use change we need to gain an understanding of what the likelihood of change is in order to manage intensification in a way that is not detrimental to the environment.

Land management practices can lead to erosion and soil loss resulting in water quality degradation and accelerated accumulation of sediment in receiving environments. We must be more pro-active about matching land uses and land management practices to site capability and limitations.

Climate Change - Increasing population and economic growth in some areas has meant an increased demand for water and the pressure on water resources is likely to increase further as a result of climate change. The region may experience less rainfall in the future, however the intensity and frequency of high rainfall events and seasonal variance is likely to increase. Sea levels are also predicted to rise as a result of climate change.

Changes in climatic conditions could affect agricultural and horticultural production (including crop types and yields, the need for water storage and irrigation, and the sustainability of current land uses in low-lying areas). This will ultimately impact on community wellbeing. Additionally, the maintenance and sustainability of stormwater

infrastructure in urban areas and river and drainage scheme infrastructure, may also be impacted by an increase in and severity of extreme weather events.

Future demands and challenges - There are a number of emerging issues that impact on freshwater that we will need to be mindful of and plan for particularly given tightening economic conditions and financial uncertainty. In particular:

- the ability and cost to provide for a growing population in the west of the region
- the burden of cost to maintain infrastructure and services in areas of population decline
- resource constraints, growing resource scarcity and the cumulative effects of growing consumption
- the intensification of land use and increased demand for water, we need to consider how much water is needed, where and when
- the effects of climate change, we may require additional infrastructure or new management approaches to respond to climate variation.

Future opportunities – The future management of freshwater will also need to consider what opportunities exist for how we might use water. The ongoing planning around water will need to explore what role the Regional Council should take in response to new opportunities and how they should be integrated into community decisions about the quality and quantity of freshwater. Opportunities may arise from:

- innovative techniques for reducing demand to take surface and ground water, such as water re-use and rainwater harvesting
- the planning and development of community irrigation schemes
- improved and more efficient water use
- different allocation approaches (e.g. water user groups and rostering)
- new crops and products that place a higher value on freshwater as an input.

The uses and demands for freshwater are increasing. While our water resources are renewable, they are finite.

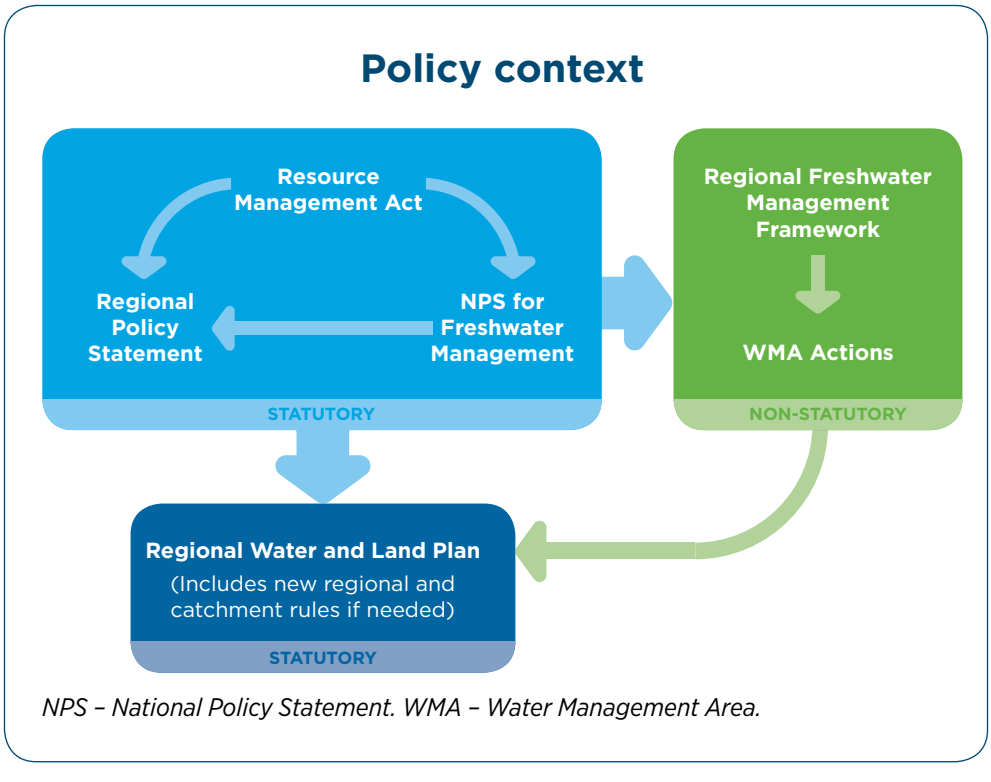
Roles and Responsibilities

Managing the freshwater resource, which includes maintaining or enhancing water quality and the allocation of water from rivers, streams and groundwater (water quantity) is the responsibility of regional councils.

Territorial Authorities (city and district councils) are responsible for providing good quality and safe drinking water to communities. This includes water collection, treatment and distribution as well as assessing their communities' needs for water services.

While respective council responsibilities such as stormwater and sewerage discharges will remain, in the future, freshwater management will be expanded to deliver more specifically against community identified values.

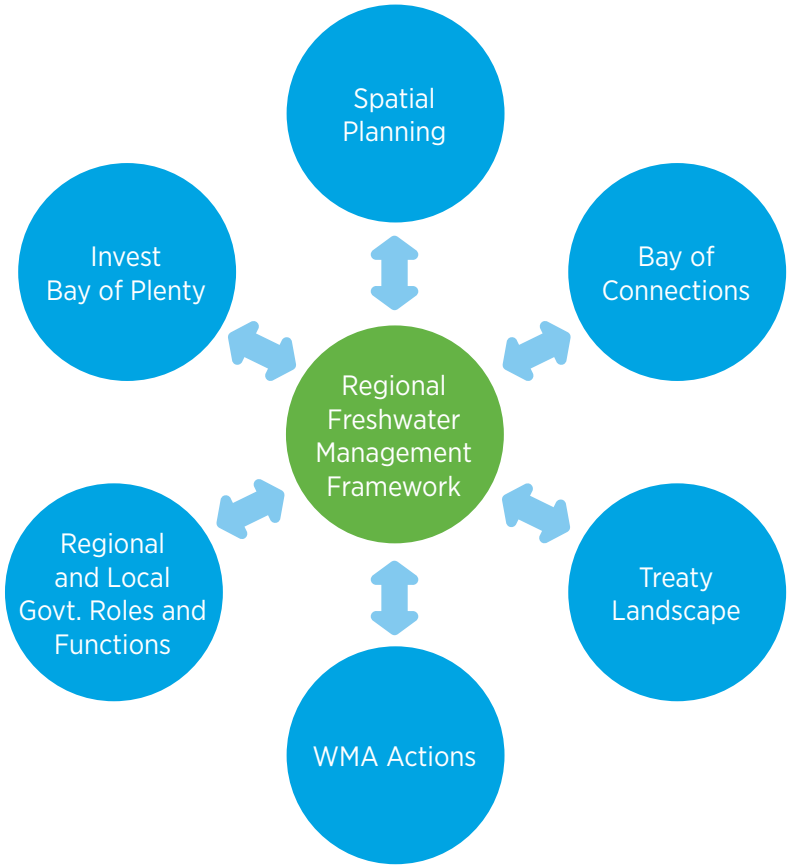
The diagram below shows how the Framework fits within the wider regional policy context of freshwater management, highlighting the role of other specific planning and regulatory documents which will be important for implementation. For example, the regulatory tools in the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Water and Land Plan will be important for setting limits and establishing any rules that are required.



NPS – National Policy Statement. WMA – Water Management Area.

In addition to the policy context identified above there are many other spheres of influence that interact with the Framework.

Influence on Freshwater Framework



In the future, freshwater management will be about building on the work we already do to deliver against community identified values.

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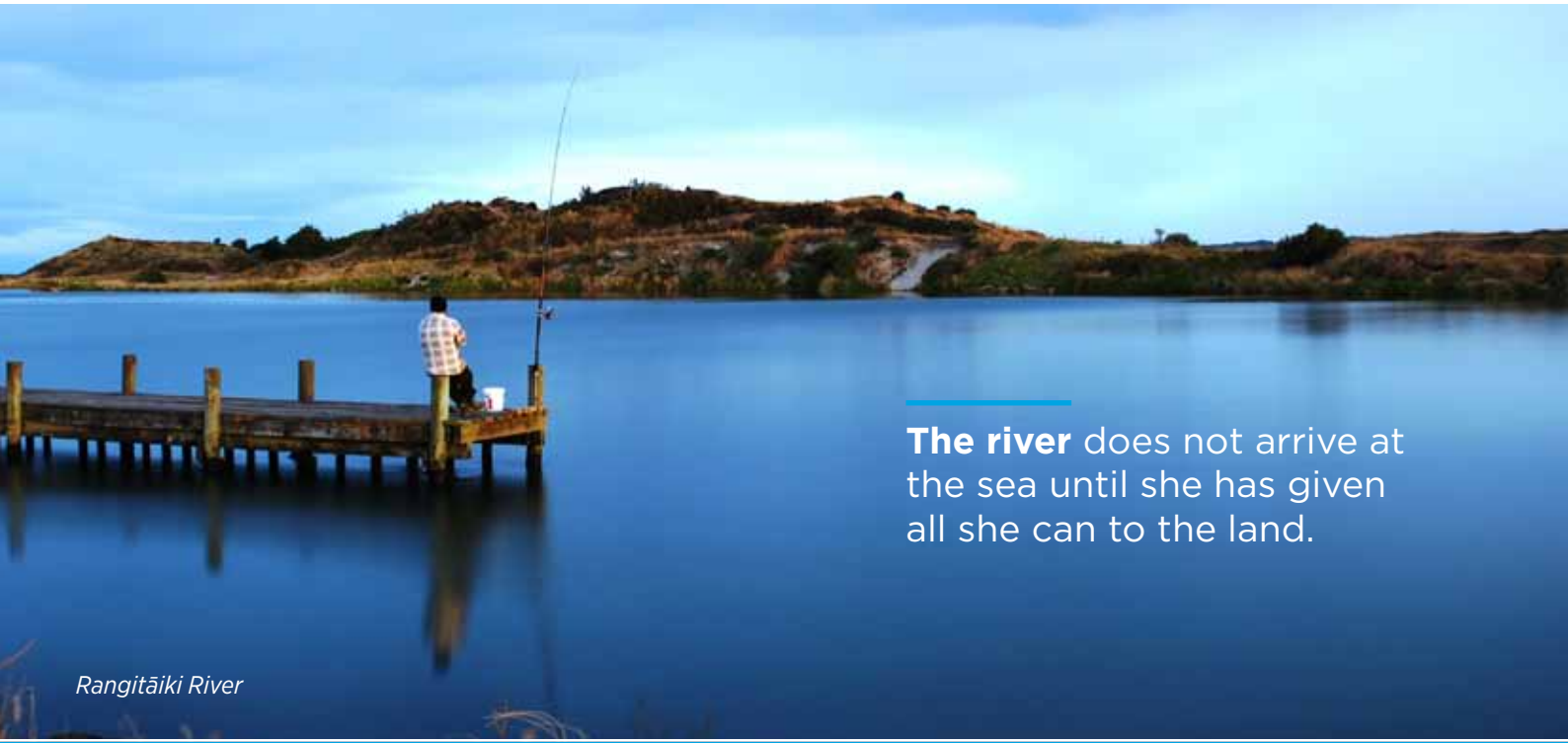
Outcomes

To achieve the vision of this Framework, and in recognising our values, the following outcomes for freshwater are sought:

1. Tangata whenua values and interests are recognised and provided for
2. Water quality within the region's water bodies is maintained or improved
3. The availability of water in water bodies throughout the region is well managed
4. The allocation of water is equitable, efficient and provides for our communities to prosper
5. The intrinsic, visual and physical properties of water resources are protected
6. The best information is available to support decision-making
7. Our regional communities are engaged in effective water management

Each of these outcomes is underpinned by a series of policies and actions to deliver this Framework.



The river does not arrive at the sea until she has given all she can to the land.

Rangitāiki River

Policies and Actions

Outcome 1. Tangata whenua values and interests are recognised and provided for

Policy 1.1 Freshwater management reflects tangata whenua values	
Actions	
1.1.1	Engage and work with iwi and hapū to share information about each other's processes and practices for managing freshwater.
1.1.2	Take into account iwi and hapū resource management plans in assessments of environmental effects.
1.1.3	Encourage iwi, who have not already done so, to develop and lodge resource management planning documents that contain specific material on the management of water resources, including mauri, and protocols to give effect to their role of kaitiaki of water.
1.1.4	In conjunction with tangata whenua, develop methods to maintain or improve the mauri of water, through the appropriate management of water quality and quantity.
1.1.5	Take reasonable steps to involve iwi and hapū in the management of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems in the region.
1.1.6	Develop and implement procedures to ensure that water resource management concerns of tangata whenua are taken into account in the development of planning documents or assessment of resource consent applications.

Kaiate Falls

Outcome 2.
Water quality within the region's water bodies is maintained or improved

Policy 2.1 Determine appropriate limits for water quality, guided by the National Objectives Framework	
Actions	
2.1.1	Establish a freshwater quality accounting system.
2.1.2	Establish water quality limits through a community process in each Water Management Area and develop rules to support these limits.
2.1.3	Assess and review the appropriateness of current water quality classifications for streams, rivers and lakes and revise classifications where identified as necessary through the community process in each water management area.
2.1.4	Use criteria to identify outstanding freshwater bodies in the region and include them in the Regional Water and Land Plan.
Policy 2.2 Maintain or where necessary improve the quality of water bodies in the region	
Actions	
2.2.1	Monitor ecosystem health and human health for recreation attributes as identified in the National Objectives Framework as a minimum standard.
2.2.2	Ensure drinking water is protected from contaminants.
2.2.3	Maintain or improve water quality in streams and rivers to meet their water quality classification and any limits identified through the community process.
2.2.4	When water quality in a river or stream does not meet its water quality classification or limit set, determine the cause of the degradation and initiate suitable action.
2.2.5	Where necessary and appropriate, use rules to restrict new activities where the effects of an activity has a high risk of causing adverse long-term effects on water quality.
2.2.6	Require improvement of groundwater quality where degradation is due to identifiable human activities and improvement measures are cost effective and practicable.
2.2.7	Work with others to investigate and implement appropriate mechanisms to protect wetlands in recognition of their water quality benefits.

Outcome 3. The availability of water in waterbodies throughout the region is well managed

Policy 3.1 Determine appropriate limits for water quantity, guided by the National Objectives Framework	
Actions	
3.1.1	Establish and operate a freshwater quantity accounting system.
3.1.2	Determine allocation limits and minimum levels for groundwater systems.
3.1.3	Establish baseline surface water allocation limits and minimum flows across the region.
3.1.4	Identify the ecological values, landscape values, recreational values, productive values and Māori customary values and traditional instream uses of a stream or river at the time of determining an instream minimum flow.
3.1.5	Monitor the ongoing appropriateness of instream flow requirements with regard to the ecology of rivers and streams.
3.1.6	Review water quantity limits through the collaborative community process in the nine Water Management Areas in the Bay of Plenty.
Policy 3.2 Manage the demand for and supply of freshwater	
Actions	
3.2.1	Improve information and knowledge of water resource availability.
3.2.2	Ensure there are no further over-allocated water resources in the region and phase out any existing over-allocation.
3.2.3	Develop a protocol and rules to give effect to minimum flow provisions.
3.2.4	Provide clarity to water users regarding the reliability of access to their consented volume.
3.2.5	Improve the efficiency of water allocation and use through innovative technologies, community irrigation schemes and water user groups.

Lake Tarawera

Outcome 4. The allocation of water is equitable, efficient and provides for our communities to prosper

Policy 4.1 Improve the efficiency of water allocation and use to provide for a range of uses and values	
Actions	
4.1.1	Develop and implement a water allocation database system that will document information for each water body where water abstraction is occurring: (a) The total volume of water that is available for allocation. (b) The total volume of water that has been allocated through resource consents (c) The total volume of water estimated as taken under the permitted activity rules in the Regional Plan and the authorised takes under the RMA. (d) The remaining volume of water that is available for allocation. (e) Other information relevant to water allocation in the water body.
4.1.2	Investigate and support methods to address competing demands for water.
4.1.3	Prepare and provide information to encourage the community to reduce water demand.
4.1.4	Use water audits to identify water losses, wastage, or opportunities to conserve or use water more efficiently.
4.1.5	Support the establishment of water user groups/forums to better share water or explore storage options.
4.1.6	Investigate barriers to, and opportunities for, reduced water demand and encourage alternative water supply options.

Outcome 5. The intrinsic, visual and physical properties of water resources are protected

Policy 5.1 Identify catchments at risk in the region	
Actions	
5.1.1	Complete the current state analysis of the region against attributes identified in the National Objectives Framework to determine where water quality is below national bottom lines.
5.1.2	Monitor against at risk triggers including regular monitoring of surface water quality to assess whether freshwater bodies may be at risk. Triggers include: • Monitored water quality is below the established water quality limits, or • Monitored water quality is above or at the established limits but has been trending downwards.
5.1.3	Identify at risk groundwater systems through monitoring and modelling.
5.1.4	Respond to research and analysis to protect freshwater resources where unacceptable risks to water quality are identified through monitoring of at risk triggers.
Policy 5.2 Maintain, or where necessary, enhance the integrity of our freshwater's cultural, ecological, amenity, natural character and landscape values	
Actions	
5.2.1	Facilitate a process with iwi, hapū and resource management agencies to discuss the ability of tangata whenua to access, use and enjoy their ancestral taonga.
5.2.2	Assist with the creation, maintenance, enhancement and protection of wetlands.
5.2.3	Protect the significant indigenous habitats and ecosystems of freshwater.

Outcome 6. The best information is available to support decision-making

Policy 6.1 Ensure information is reliable, relevant and up to date	
Actions	
6.1.1	Undertake research where monitoring indicates an environmental problem that is not currently understood or explained, and research is necessary, appropriate and practicable.
6.1.2	Ensure impact and state of the environment monitoring programmes assess the combined effects of discharges of contaminants to water and surface water abstractions on water quality.
6.1.3	Improve information management to accurately relate monitoring (such as consents monitoring) to current state of the environment.
6.1.4	Prepare an information gathering work plan outlining: (a) what freshwater information is needed and why (b) timeframes for when information is needed (c) how we will work with others to meet information needs and avoid duplication of effort.

Outcome 7. Our regional communities are engaged in effective water management

Policy 7.1 Promote and invest in community engagement on water issues	
Actions	
7.1.1	Involve communities in the process to identify values and the setting of limits for freshwater bodies.
7.1.2	Raise community awareness of matters relating to the governance and sustainable management of water resources using appropriate education and promotion techniques and mechanisms: (a) The stewardship of soil and water resources, ecosystems, and cultural, amenity, natural character and landscape values; and (b) Appropriate resource management practices to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment, including people, properties and the receiving environment (c) Freshwater management concepts and their operation e.g. allocation, minimum flows.
7.1.3	Promote and support community projects that aim to improve water quality and better manage water quantity through localised action.
7.1.4	Support the establishment and maintenance of community-based state of the environment monitoring programmes.

Performance Monitoring and Review

Central Government is proposing wide-ranging, staggered and long-term improvements to how freshwater is managed in New Zealand. As the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management evolves and as our knowledge improves it will be important to check that the Framework remains fit for purpose.

To ensure that the actions continue to be appropriate and relevant, this Framework will be revised and updated every three years. This review process will include:

- Reporting back on progress for specific policies and actions
- Assessing outcomes to ensure they remain relevant and in line with Government and community expectations
- Monitoring the effect of the Framework to ensure that areas needing more attention or improvement can be identified
- Setting new actions to maintain momentum in the evolution of improved freshwater management in the Bay of Plenty region.

Tauranga River

Implementing the Framework

Managing water, and implementing the policies identified in the Framework, requires regional action as well as catchment-based action.

Regional action will centre on issues that apply to all catchments. Catchment-based action will centre on the setting of objectives and limits with communities in the nine Water Management Areas. The values and needs of the community in each Water Management Area will be different and we will need to balance these differing values and needs within the regional context and framework of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

All regional and catchment-based action will be underpinned by the values and outcomes of this Framework.

Regional Actions

These are the activities, processes and frameworks that are needed to address issues that apply across the region as a whole, such as:

- Setting principles for dealing with trade-offs between economic development and environmental protection
- Setting principles for dealing with "clawbacks" – whether this requires reducing nutrient discharges or reducing water takes
- Managing known risks to water quality and quantity including the intensification of land use across the region
- Recognising and providing for the complex relationships of the post-Treaty settlement landscape
- Implementing stronger policy and rules around surface and groundwater allocation, and in stream minimum flow requirements.

Current projects planned for and underway include:

1. Regional Water Allocation Plan Change – to reinforce existing region wide interim limits for water allocation, improve Council's ability to manage water allocation and establishes a new policy framework to support water management area processes
2. Freshwater Accounting System – to track the quantity and quality of freshwater bodies
3. Current State – to gather necessary information and data required to commence work in Water Management Areas
4. Land Use Risk Assessment – to identify the likelihood of land-use change and land-use intensification across the nine Water Management Areas in the Bay of Plenty and any associated risks and opportunities
5. Outstanding Freshwater Bodies – to identify and include in regional planning documents.

Catchment-based Actions

The Water Management Areas are designed to enable Council to work with communities to set and apply water quality and quantity limits. Determining the style of working with the community to be undertaken for each Water Management Area will be part of the planning for each of these Areas.

There are a lot of different ways we can involve communities in the limit setting process. A common approach is to establish a community interest group made up of members that represent the various interests associated with a Water Management Area. The underlying premise being that members of the group are able to gather information from, and feed information back to, the sector they represent.

The group (with assistance from the Regional Council) undertakes the process of determining freshwater objectives and setting limits. This may involve bringing in specialist technical advisors when needed or holding meetings to gather feedback from communities of interest for a particular area for example to ensure consistency across Water Management Area boundaries.

While the process won't necessarily be the same for each area the outputs required will remain consistent and require a change to the Regional Water and Land Plan.

Given the significant amount of work that will be required for each Water Management Area, all Areas cannot be progressed at the same time. Work is already underway in the Rotorua Water Management Area. The Rangitāiki and Kaituna/Maketū and Pongakawa/Waitahanui Water Management Areas will be the next to be progressed. Work in all other Areas will be phased out to 2025.

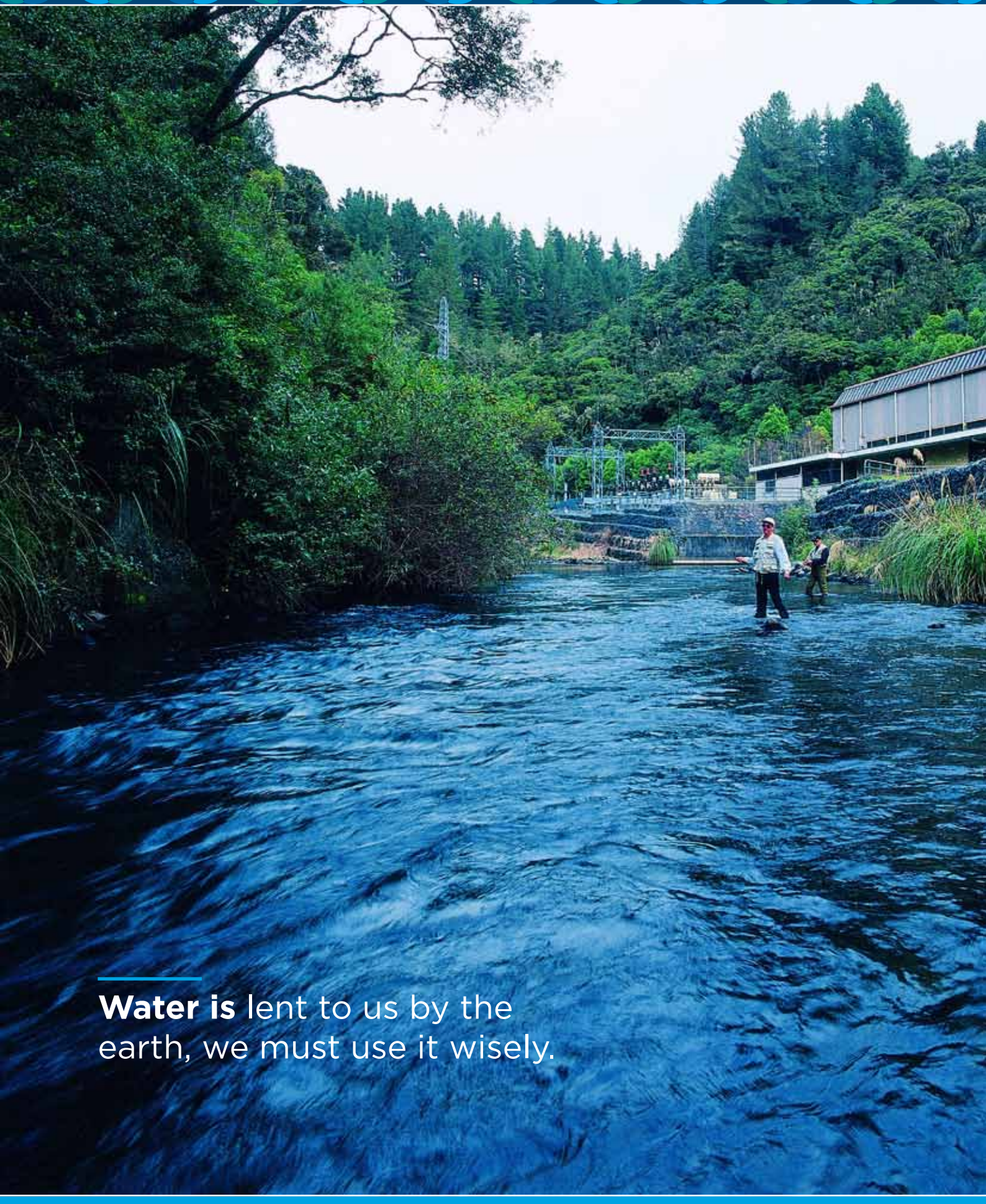
Outline of process to set RMA limits

	Project planning and set up
	Establish structure and processes
	Establish and undertake processes to recruit community group
	Collate all existing information
	Baseline knowledge: understand and expand on existing information; agree on what the story tells us from all perspectives
	Freshwater objectives: Use the National Objectives Framework to identify values, attributes and attribute states (collectively termed freshwater objectives)
	Assess needs: does current water quality and quantity provide for identified freshwater objectives; determine the gaps and priorities for focus; determine limits/targets to explore
	Scenario and impact analysis: detailed modelling of different options including environmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes; clarify trade-offs and balance
	Evaluation: assessment of scenarios (use tools such as focus groups, evaluation matrix); revise and reassess as needed
	Develop policy and regulatory framework: iterative process to develop and agree on the policy and rule regime (limits and management options) to be included in the plan change
	Consult on framework: not required but best practice to consult on this 'draft' stage prior to notification
	Council notifies plan change using process prescribed in RMA
	Hearings panel appointed and hears submissions and deliberates
	Council decision notified; Environment Court appeals, hearings and decision
	Regional Water and Land Plan operative

Flexible - but requires sign off from Council as has funding implications	**Flexible** - but requires round table discussion. Collectively the group will provide direction and advice on each step in the process	**No flexibility** – process to be followed prescribed in RMA

Glossary

Attribute	a measurable characteristic of fresh water, including physical, chemical and biological properties, which supports particular values.
Attribute state	the level to which an attribute is to be managed for those attributes specified in Appendix 2 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.
Compulsory values	the national values relating to ecosystem health and to human health for recreation included in Appendix 1 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014.
Freshwater body	freshwater in a river, lake, stream, pond, wetland, or aquifer, or any part thereof, that is not located within the coastal marine area.
Freshwater objective	describes an intended environmental outcome.
Freshwater quality accounting system	a system that, for each freshwater management unit, records, aggregates and keeps regularly updated, information on the measured, modelled or estimated: a) loads and/or concentrations of relevant contaminants; b) sources of relevant contaminants; c) amount of each contaminant attributable to each source; and d) where limits have been set, proportion of the limit that is being used.
Freshwater quantity accounting system	a system that, for each freshwater management unit, records, aggregates and keeps regularly updated, information on the measured, modelled or estimated: a) total freshwater take; b) proportion of freshwater taken by each major category of use; and c) where limits have been set, proportion of the limit that has been taken.
Freshwater take	a take of ground or surface fresh water whether authorised or not.
Limit	the maximum amount of resource use available, which allows a freshwater objective to be met.
National bottom line	means the minimum acceptable state for the compulsory values as specified in Appendix 2 of the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management 2014.
National objectives framework	a national framework which guides and directs regional decision making in the setting of freshwater objectives and limits.
Outstanding freshwater bodies	water bodies identified in a regional policy statement or regional plan as having outstanding values, including ecological, landscape, recreational and spiritual values.
Over-allocation	where the freshwater resource: a) has been allocated to users beyond a limit; or b) is being used to a point where a freshwater objective is no longer being met. This applies to both water quantity and quality.
Secondary contact	people's contact with fresh water that involves only occasional immersion and includes wading or boating (except boating where there is high likelihood of immersion).
Value	those intrinsic qualities, uses or potential uses that people and communities appreciate about water bodies and wish to see recognised in the ongoing management of those water bodies.



Water is lent to us by the earth, we must use it wisely.

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