Symposium

With support from...
Implementing the NPS-FM in the Wellington region

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The Wellington region’s journey so far - our history is important

• Ara Tahi and the Charter of Understanding/Memorandum of Partnership 1993
• Regional Policy Statement 2011
• Regional Plan Review 2009
• Te Upoko Taiao 2009
• National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Committee

• Full Committee of Council delegated the task of developing regional plan - established 2010

• 7 elected and 7 appointed members – all appointed for skills and attributes, including knowledge of rohe; but not representatives of.

• Specifically enables Maori participation in decision making and builds on the RPS engagement and policy development process

• Co-chaired; committee is not discharged at the end of triennium

• Clear principles developed to guide committees work
Principles to guide the review of regional plans and whaitua

- Managing natural and physical resources in a holistic manner, recognising they are interconnected and reliant upon one another
- Recognition and respect for mauri and the intrinsic values of natural and physical features, and including the connections between natural process and human cultures
- Identity/wairuatanga
- Guardianship/kaitakaranga
- Recognition that we all have a part to play as guardians to maintain and enhance our natural and physical resources for current and future generations
- Partnership between Greater Wellington, iwi and the community based on a commitment to active engagement, good faith and a commonality of purpose
- Connected/ki uta ki tai
- Judgement based on knowledge/tō mātou whakapono
- Recognition that our actions will be considered and justified by using the best available information and good judgement
NPS-FM – game changer or not?

• Amongst other things, NPS requires Councils to
  • Maximise efficient allocation and efficient use of water
  • Maintain and improve water quality
  • Set Freshwater objectives and limits
  • Provide for iwi and hapu involvement and identification of tangata whenua values

• Our challenge
  • Regional Plan review process already underway
  • Very distinct region with agricultural and urban issues; needed a framework to implement
Connecting the Plan with implementing the NPS

Needed a process to allow for existing plan review to continue but also acknowledge obligations of NPS:

• Manage land and water interactions at a regional scale; while allowing communities within catchments to establish their own values and places for protection

• Provide opportunities for integrated and enduring partnerships with communities

• Improve our ability to manage water quality and use through communities making their own decisions

• Statutory and non statutory packages
Whaitua – catchment management and collaborative process
Implementing the policy framework

Current regional plans

Process 1
Give effect to RPS air, soil, hazards, heritage, coastal, land and water

Second generation regional plan

Regional Plan

Process 2
Implement the NPS-FW (catchment-based) whaitua

Ruamāhanga – Land and Water Management Chapter

Wairarapa Coast Land and Water Management Chapter

Porirua Harbour Land and Water Management Chapter

Kāpiti Coast Land and Water Management Chapter

Wellington/Hutt Valley Land and Water Management Chapter

Regional Plan with whaitua provisions
Whaitua committees - Delivering the NPS through catchment scale processes
Greater Wellington’s approach to a staged implantation of the NPS-FM

- Whaitua committees – staged approach to NPS implementation and a partnership with iwi
- 2013 through to 2023 – two committees on the go at any one time
- Integrated Catchment Management through collaborative community based decision making:
  - Provides a framework for implementing the NPS-FW
  - Integrates regulatory and non regulatory methods
  - Advisory body established by Council
  - Reflects the five principles of the Plan review process
  - Develops a Whaitua Implementation Plan
Whaitua Committees

• Membership
  – 1 elected and 1 appointed member of Te Upoko Taiao;
  – iwi authority member from rohe;
  – one member from each represented TA;
  – up to seven members from local community
  – Range of background, interests and skills critical

• Committee tasked with:
  – Developing specific whaitua or catchment objectives and targets for water quality and quantity outcomes, including timeframes
  – Establishing water quality limits for freshwater
  – Reviewing water allocation limit
  – Recommending suite of non-regulatory options
  – WIP recommended through Te Upoko Taiao and then full Council
  – Time bound 24-36 months
Risks, challenge and what now?

- Rolling plan reviews to implement WIPs
- Schedule 1 process presents usual environment court risks despite Whaitua process
- Time and resource for all parties involved
- Perceptions of legitimacy and transparency
- RMA reform

But: this can and will work as a legitimate way in which to implement the NPS-FW!