

# Freshwater bodies of outstanding or significant value in the Taranaki region

Review of the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki

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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the review of the *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* (2001) by assessing, evaluating and identifying freshwater bodies determined to be **'outstanding'**.

The report also identifies freshwater bodies not otherwise identified as 'outstanding' but still considered to be **'regionally significant'** for their natural character, features, and/or amenity, recreational, fishery, ecological, cultural or historical associations.

## 1.2 BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared by the Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) to identify water bodies that contain outstanding or regionally significant instream values.

An outstanding freshwater body is one that is exceptional in some way. That is, in accordance with Section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and in light of the *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014* (NPSFM), the water body has attributes and values that are more than significant at a local or regional scale.

The NPSFM defines outstanding freshwater bodies as those:

*"...identified in a regional policy statement or plan as having outstanding values – including ecological, landscape, recreational and spiritual values."*

The NPSFM does not provide guidance on how those values should be assessed. However, through case law<sup>1</sup>, the Courts have provided the following meaning:

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<sup>1</sup> *Wakatipu Environmental Society and others v Queenstown-Lakes District Council* [2000] C180/99.

*"'Outstanding' means conspicuous, eminent, especially because of excellence and remarkable in."*

The NPSFM contains objectives and policies requiring the significant values of those bodies to be protected. Protecting outstanding water bodies means meeting a high threshold, and there is only likely to be a small number of outstanding water bodies identified by regional councils across the country. Outstanding freshwater bodies are eligible for special protections to sustain and manage these features.

Previous studies and public processes associated with the development of the current Freshwater Plan and the review of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki* (RPS) already identify water bodies of high quality or high value for their natural, ecological and amenity values. Therefore as part of the review of the Freshwater Plan, and for the purposes of aligning and giving effect to the NPSFM, the Council has re-evaluated those water bodies in relation to their characteristics and features that display a combination of natural elements, patterns and processes that are clearly superior to others in their extent, intactness, integrity and lack of built structures and other modifications. There is consensus in reviewed literature that there will only be a small number of outstanding freshwater bodies throughout New Zealand as a result of the NPSFM.<sup>2</sup>

Water bodies not otherwise identified as 'outstanding' may still be identified as significant for which adverse effects resulting from activities must be avoided, remedied or mitigated via Plan policies, rules and the resource consents process.

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<sup>2</sup> *Ministry for the Environment, December 2015.*



*“The NPSFM defines outstanding freshwater bodies as those “...identified in a regional policy statement or plan as having outstanding values – including ecological, landscape, recreational and spiritual values.”*

### **1.3 STUDY METHODOLOGY**

This report summarises the findings of an assessment study and targeted consultation to identify water bodies considered to have outstanding or regionally significant freshwater values in the Taranaki region.

As part of this exercise, the Council initially undertook a desktop exercise to examine and build on previous work and evaluations identifying natural character and other freshwater values, including those that contributed to the current *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* and the RPS (refer sections 2.2.4 and 2.2.5).

In the absence of national guidance on criteria for evaluating and determining ‘outstanding’ attributes and values, the Council has, firstly, reviewed existing case law and best practice methodologies for determining outstanding natural features and landscapes (i.e. section 6(b) RMA matters), and other relevant studies and guidance notes (e.g. Quality Planning website, Lincoln University, and the Department of Conservation). Secondly, it has evaluated water bodies to identify attributes and values that are

‘outstanding’ or ‘significance’ that may require an added level of protection.

The assessment of outstanding or significant water bodies involved the following steps:

1. Research selected water bodies identified as outstanding in the current Freshwater Plan, RPS, and other public review processes, including previous landscape assessments (district and regional level).
2. Collate relevant GIS data and technical information, including topo maps, aerial imagery of candidate freshwater bodies, geology, land cover, recorded natural areas, consents database.
3. Develop assessment criteria for natural character and other freshwater values (refer to section 3.4, Table 1).
4. Evaluate values of candidate freshwater bodies through the assessment criteria to:
  - Identify key attributes and values for water bodies with outstanding natural character, landscapes and features, and associative values; or
  - Identify water bodies not otherwise identified as ‘outstanding’ but

nevertheless having regionally significant freshwater values.

5. Prepare draft report summarizing the above for targeted consultation.
6. Include input from targeted consultation into a revised report to inform section 32 analysis and Proposed Plan.

Initial information and preliminary finding of the desktop study were also informed by stakeholder feedback on a draft *Freshwater and Land Management Plan for Taranaki*. A draft report was prepared and forwarded to 24 key organisations with a broad range of interest and expertise in freshwater values for their input and feedback. These being:

Department of Conservation  
Fish and Game New Zealand  
North Taranaki Branch of Royal Forest and Bird  
South Taranaki Branch of Royal Forest and Bird  
Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust  
Methanex  
Ngati Tama  
Ngati Mutunga  
Te Atiawa  
Ngati Te Whiti hapu  
Ngati Tawhirikura hapu  
Puketapu hapu  
Pukerangiora hapu  
Otaraua hapu  
Ngati Rahiri Management Committee  
Manukorihi hapu  
Ngati Tuparikino  
Taranaki iwi  
Ngāruahine  
Ngati Ruanui  
Ngaa Rauru  
New Plymouth District Council  
South Taranaki District Council  
Stratford District Council.

Responses were received from the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, and Stratford District Council. As appropriate, comments and

information relating to the identification of freshwater values have been included in this report.

Copies of all feedback received from the targeted consultation are included as **Appendix I**.

## 1.4 STRUCTURE

This report contains six sections.

**Section 1** introduces the report, including its purpose, the scope and methodology of the study, and the report's structure.

**Section 2** outlines the statutory and planning context for identifying outstanding freshwater bodies, including an overview of freshwater resources within the Taranaki region, and statutory considerations for assessing and evaluating, in particular, outstanding or significant natural character and freshwater values.

**Section 3** outlines the criteria for assessing and evaluating outstanding natural character and other freshwater values.

**Section 4** identifies water bodies considered to have outstanding or nearly outstanding natural character and biophysical, sensory and associative values, including a summary of their values and attributes.

**Section 5** identifies other Taranaki water bodies assessed as having regionally significant values that though they did not trigger the outstanding criterion nevertheless contain regionally important natural character, features, and/or amenity, recreational, fishery, ecological, cultural or historical associations that should be recognised and provided for.

**Section 6** summarises the report's findings and recommendations for identifying outstanding freshwater bodies and/or regionally significant values.

Appendices are presented at the back of the report, including feedback received on the draft report.



Water flowing over rocks



## 2. Overview

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### 2.1 THE TARANAKI CONTEXT

Taranaki has 20,000 kilometres of waterways and no less than 530 named rivers and streams.

Taranaki also has 19 lakes with an area greater than eight hectares and over 1,200 wetlands.

Over 300 rivers flow from the flanks of Mount Taranaki in a distinctive radial pattern across the ring plain. Typically ring plain rivers are short, small and fast-flowing. Egmont National Park acts as a huge reservoir, supplying a steady flow of water to ring plain rivers even during prolonged dry periods.

By contrast, hill country rivers display a branch-like ('dendritic') pattern of drainage. Hill country rivers typically are much longer, have short tributaries and are contained by narrow valleys that carry relatively high sediment loads as a result of erosion.

The natural form and character of most Taranaki freshwater bodies has been modified over time, to varying degrees, by human activities.

Those water bodies with the greatest degree of remnant natural character (least modified) largely lie within the upper catchments of Mount Taranaki or the eastern hill country.

Rivers, lakes and wetlands with a high degree of natural character are likely to be more adversely impacted upon by use and development activities than those that have already been substantially modified.

Upper catchment ring plain and forested eastern hill country streams or rivers are generally the least modified and are characterised by high water quality, high macroinvertebrate community index (MCI) scores, and fish communities which contain a higher proportion of migrating fish that have good climbing abilities (such as koaro and longfinned eels).

Mid catchment ring plain rivers and streams usually have water that displays more nutrient enrichment, mid-range MCI scores and a diverse fish community, including some species with climbing abilities. Land uses in these river and stream catchments are generally more intensive and there is less riparian vegetation.



*Taranaki's landscape is dissected by more than 20,000 kilometres of rivers and streams.*

In lower catchment ring plain streams, water bodies are more likely to be modified and have elevated nutrient levels. While these reaches have generally lower MCI scores (compared to the upper reaches), there is still the potential for high fish diversity including those with poor climbing abilities such as mullet and inanga species. Generally lower ring plain reaches occur with an intensively farmed landscape where there is less riparian vegetation in comparison to the upper reaches.

In lower catchment hill country streams and rivers there is generally discolouration due to high sediment loads, and low MCI scores.

Our rivers, lakes and wetlands are an important and valued part of Taranaki’s environment and quality of life. They contribute to the region’s environmental, economic, cultural and social wellbeing. Freshwater values and uses associated with Taranaki’s rivers, lakes, and wetlands (and aquifers) can be broadly categorised into consumptive and instream values and include:<sup>3</sup>

- natural form and character
- ecosystem health, including the health and mauri of water
- contact recreation (swimming)
- secondary contact recreation (e.g. wading or boating)
- food production and harvesting, including mahinga kai
- recreational fisheries (e.g. trout and whitebaiting)
- fish (trout and inanga) spawning
- places, sites and areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values (e.g. threatened ecosystems such as wetlands and habitat for nationally threatened or regionally distinctive indigenous species)
- places, sites and areas of special cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional significance to iwi, e.g. taonga, wāhi tapu,

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<sup>3</sup> The following values and uses for water are derived from the Government’s national objectives framework set out in Appendix I of the NPSFM.

wāhi taonga and wāhi tūpuna

- community water supply
- abstractions for stock watering and fire fighting purposes
- abstractions for commercial and industrial processes
- abstractions for land irrigation
- hydro electricity generation
- other – includes other places, sites and areas with social, cultural, historical and amenity values.

Within any water body there may be multiple sometimes conflicting values and uses.<sup>4</sup>

Freshwater values can vary in their significance, and/or that may apply to the whole water body or part of the water body.



*“The natural form and character of many rivers, lakes and wetlands in Taranaki have been modified over time, to varying degrees, by human activities.”*

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<sup>4</sup> Consumptive values relating to freshwater use and development activities such as abstractions for community water supply, stock watering and fire fighting purposes, land irrigation and hydroelectricity generation, are not addressed in this report but nevertheless may have a bearing on the freshwater attributes and instream values.

## 2.2 STATUTORY CONTEXT

### 2.2.1 Resource Management Act 1991

The stated purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), outlined in Section 5, is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Included within this purpose is the need to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

While the RMA is silent on the term 'outstanding freshwater bodies', Section 6(b) of the RMA requires the Council to recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate use and development.

Part 3 of the RMA (sections 9 to 16) outlines the duties and restrictions that relate to the use of natural and physical resources that govern the way in which regional councils and territorial authorities manage their respective regulatory responsibilities.

Section 9 of the RMA addresses restrictions on the use of land. A resource consent is only required if the activity contravenes a regional rule, for example, if an activity does not comply with the standards, terms or conditions of a permitted activity rule.

Under section 30 of the RMA [functions of regional councils], regional councils are responsible for controlling discharges of contaminants to the environment, the use of water, uses of river and lake beds, activities in the coastal marine area and control of the use of land for purposes such as soil conservation and water quality.

Section 65 of the Act allows a regional council to prepare a regional plan for the whole or parts of its region. Such a plan must:

- give effect to national policy statements and RMA provisions for regional water quality plans (sections 63-70)
- be consistent with the relevant regional policy statement and other regional plans.

### 2.2.2 Water conservation orders

Part 9 of the RMA sets out a mechanism – water conservation orders – that give primacy to the conservation of outstanding scenic and amenity values. Their purpose is to provide for “...the preservation as far as possible in its natural state of any water body that is considered to be outstanding” and protect particular characteristics that a waterbody has (or contributes to), which are considered to be outstanding.

Freshwater body characteristics to be protected may include:

- habitat of terrestrial or freshwater species
- fisheries (indigenous, trout or salmon)
- wild, scenic or other natural characteristics
- scientific and ecological values
- recreational, historical, spiritual or cultural values
- characteristics of outstanding significance in accordance with tikanga Māori.<sup>5</sup>

To be included in a water conservation order, a water body either has to be itself outstanding in a national context, or contain outstanding characteristics or features, or contribute in some significant way to outstanding characteristics or features.

The test as to what is outstanding is a “reasonably rigorous” one. Before a feature or characteristic can qualify as outstanding, it needs to be quite out of the ordinary on a national basis.

Of note, Taranaki had the first local conservation order (refer sections 2.2.5 and 4.1 below), which was granted in 1985.

### 2.2.3 National Policy Statement Freshwater Management 2014

National policy statements are regulations issued under sections 45 and 46 of the RMA by the Government. National policy statements set out

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<sup>5</sup> A water conservation order may extend to an entire river system, including parts of the system that are not in themselves outstanding, but that contribute to the integrity of the system.

objectives and policies for matters of national significance, which regional plans must give effect to, to ensure national consistency on their subject matter. Of particular relevance to this report is the *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014* (NPSFM).

The NPSFM introduces the concept of 'outstanding freshwater bodies'. The NPSFM defines outstanding freshwater bodies as those "...identified in a regional policy statement or plan as having outstanding values – including ecological, landscape, recreational and spiritual values."<sup>6</sup>

Of particular relevance to this report are Objectives A2 and B4 of the NPSFM that acknowledges there are a small number of outstanding waterbodies across New Zealand that are exceptional in relation to one particular feature, or which may have a number of outstanding features or values that should be protected.

Objectives A2 and B4 of the NPSFM reads:

*Objective A2:*

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

*(a) protecting the quality of outstanding freshwater bodies..."*

*Objective B4:*

*"To protect significant values of wetlands and of outstanding freshwater bodies."*

Ministry for the Environment guidance on the implementation of the NPSFM<sup>7</sup> notes that protecting outstanding waterbodies (and significant wetlands) is a high threshold, and there is only likely to be a small number of outstanding freshwater bodies identified by regional councils across the country. It generally means that adverse effects on the quality and values of the outstanding freshwater body must be avoided.

Regional communities will determine which water bodies are outstanding through the

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<sup>6</sup> The majority of these values are attributes of natural character, features or landscapes. However some highly valued recreational sites maybe modified environments, with a low level of naturalness.

<sup>7</sup> Ministry for the Environment. 2014A.

regional objective-setting process. Through this process it is intended to create additional protection for those water bodies that are considered outstanding.

#### **2.2.4 The Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki**

The *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010* (the RPS) sets out broad objectives and policies for the Taranaki region to promote integrated management in the region. Both regional and district plans must give effect to the RPS.

The RPS identifies the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, as an issue of regional significance.

The RPS includes policies and methods of implementation to achieve its objectives. Of particular relevance is NFL Policy 1(d), which seeks to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes. These are areas that contain natural features and landscapes that are 'outstanding' and of national or regional significance.

NFL Policy 1(d) reads:

*"NFL POLICY 1: Nationally and regionally outstanding natural features and landscapes Outstanding natural features and landscapes are to be protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, including protection of: ... (d) the natural character and features and landscapes of regional significance associated with Taranaki rivers and lakes and their margin".*

The RPS explicitly identifies two rivers and one lake as being outstanding in their natural values, features and landscapes, these are:

- the Hangatahua (Stony) River
- the Maketawa Stream, and
- Lake Rotokare.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> NFL Policy 2 of the RPS recognises that other natural areas, features or landscapes, while they may not be outstanding, nevertheless may still be of value to the region, e.g. wetlands and other, or waterbodies with significant amenity, ecological, cultural or historical values.

WAL Policy 2 further recognises some waterbodies as having high natural, ecological, cultural or other values – such as the Hangatahua (Stony), Maketawa and Manganui catchments – and seeks to maintain those high natural values.

Appendix II of the RPS sets out a schedule of 42 rivers and streams identified as having high natural, ecological and amenity values. They are based upon those identified in the Freshwater Plan, which was developed with considerable public input in 2001.

### 2.2.5 Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki 2001

The operative Freshwater Plan provides a framework through which the Council can make decisions to allow for the appropriate use of fresh water, while avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse environmental effects.

Objective 3.1.1 of the Freshwater Plan (and supporting policies and rules) recognise and provide for the protection of the waters of the Hangatahua (Stony) River catchment. Prior to the Plan the Hangatahua (Stony) River was protected by the former Local Water Conservation (Stony (Hangatahua) River) Notice 1985. This Notice protected the waters of the Hangatahua (Stony) River for their outstanding natural characteristics and features, including regionally important fisheries and angling values, scenic, recreational, historical and educational values, and its special importance to tangata whenua. The Hangatahua (Stony) River Local Water Conservation Notice was replaced by the provisions of this Plan. Continuing community support for the ongoing protection of the Hangatahua (Stony) River was confirmed following the review of the RPS in 2010.

Policy 3.1.1 seeks to retain as far as possible in their natural state, the quantities levels and rates of flow of water and the quality of water within the Hangatahua (Stony) catchment.

In addition to the objectives and policies seeking to protect the Hangatahua (Stony) River, Policy 6.1.1 of the Freshwater Plan identified two other catchments or reaches where the taking and use of water is prohibited – these are the Maketawa Stream and parts of the Manganui River. Existing natural flows are a major contributor to the regional significance of these waterways for their natural character, scenic or amenity values.

Policy 6.1.1 of the Freshwater Plan reads:

*POL 6.1.1*

*The Taranaki Regional Council will prohibit the taking and use of water in the catchments or reaches listed in Table 1, except for minor takes and where the taking or use is necessary to meet an individual's reasonable domestic or stock water needs or for fire-fighting purposes.*

**Table 1: Catchments or reaches where taking and use of water will be prohibited**

Catchment	Reach
Maketawa Stream catchment except Ngatoro Stream ....	To confluence with Manganui River
Manganui River except Te Popo Stream catchment	Catchment above 100 m above weir (located at NZMS 260 Q19: 202-200)

Of note Appendix IA of the Freshwater Plan schedules 42 rivers and streams identified by the community as having of high natural, ecological and amenity values. The values reflected include water quality, recreational and fishery values, and aesthetic and scenic values (refer **Appendix II** of this report).

**Appendix III** of this report sets out a summary of the current policy framework in the Freshwater Plan, RPS and the NPSFM relating to the management of water bodies with outstanding or high natural, ecological and amenity values.



*“The NPSFM introduces the concept of outstanding freshwater bodies...adverse effects on the quality and values of the outstanding freshwater bodies must be avoided.”*

### 3. Assessment factors for determining natural character, outstanding features, landscapes and values

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#### 3.1 WHAT IS NATURAL?

Natural character is a very useful starting point in relation to any landscape assessment. Natural character is a term used to describe the level of 'naturalness' of the environment. Different rivers, lakes and wetlands have different levels of natural character remaining.

Neither the RMA nor the NPSFM define the term natural character. However, there are various working definitions established by case law and the expert community that makes it quite clear that the term has a broad application and does not necessarily mean pristine or unmodified (in Taranaki, pasture is a significant component of the landscape as well as a large part of the region's identity or sense of place).

Building on case law and a previous definition from the Ministry for the Environment<sup>9</sup> a workshop<sup>10</sup> confirmed acceptance of the following definition that is both useful and workable:

*"Natural character is the term used to describe the natural elements of all [coastal] environments. The degree or level of natural character within an environment depends on:*

- 1. The extent to which the natural elements, patterns and processes occur;*
- 2. The nature and extent of modification to the ecosystems and landscape/seascape;*
- 3. The degree of natural character is highest where there is least modification;*
- 4. The effect of different types of modification upon natural character varies with context and may be perceived differently by different parts of the community."*

The term 'naturalness' has been discussed in numerous Environment Court decisions

including *Long Bay Okura Park Society v North Shore City Council [2008] A078/08*, which stated the following definition of natural:

*"The list of criteria of naturalness under section 6(b) of the RMA includes:*

- relatively unmodified and legible physical landform and relief;*
- the landscape being uncluttered by structures and/or obvious human influence;*
- the presence of water (lake, river, sea);*
- the presence of vegetation (especially native vegetation) and other ecological patterns.*

*The absence or compromised presence of one or more of these criteria does not mean that the landscape or coastal environment is non-natural, just that it is less natural. There is a spectrum of naturalness from a pristine natural landscape to a cityscape, and a 'cultured nature' landscape can still be an outstanding natural."*

In relation to what might constitute 'natural elements, patterns and processes', in evidence presented to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Board of Inquiry on behalf of Future Ocean Beach Trust, the following definitions were provided:

*"...Natural elements: natural elements are the products of ecological, erosional and depositional processes; the biophysical characteristics of the landscape, such as landforms, rock outcrops, hydrological features and vegetation communities;*

*Natural patterns: patterns are formed through the interactions between landscape elements and the processes operating on them. Patterns are apparent though the interactions of plants, soils, aspect and slope, or through the erosion of the coastline through wave action. The regimented character of a forestry plantation or apple orchard compared with the apparently random patterns of trees in an indigenous forest, illustrates how natural and unnatural patterns might be understood; and*

*Natural processes: natural processes are the dynamic processes at work on the biophysical*

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<sup>9</sup> Ministry for the Environment, 2002.

<sup>10</sup> Department of Conservation, 2012.

landscape, shaping landform and vegetation communities through processes of erosion and deposition, soil forming processes, colonisation and succession, regeneration and energy and nutrient flows.”



“Usually an outstanding natural landscape should be obvious (in general terms) that there is no need for expert analysis.”

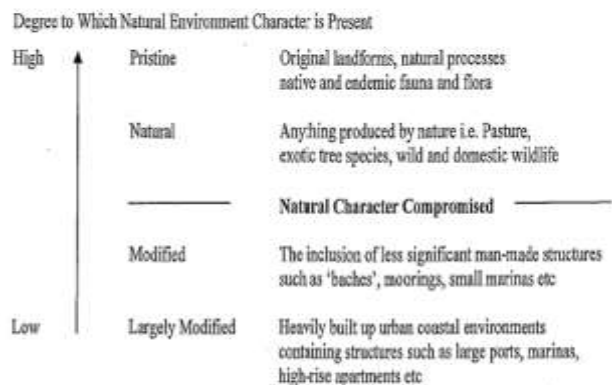
### 3.2 DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF NATURAL CHARACTER

Natural character is assessed along a continuum, or scale – from pristine wilderness (where no evidence of human intervention is apparent) to wholly developed (where little evidence of natural character remains).

In *Harrison v Tasman District Council* [1993] W42/93 the Court determined that “...the word ‘natural’ does not necessarily equate with the word ‘pristine’ except in so far as landscape in a pristine state is probably rarer and of more value than landscape in a natural state.”

The degree of natural character (e.g. pristine, high, low, etc) will vary significantly between different waterbodies and indeed even within waterbodies the degree of natural character may differ. It is generally accepted that the extent to which natural elements, patterns and processes occur; and the extent to which these factors are modified by human intervention, will determine the extent of a waterbody’s natural character<sup>11</sup>.

Figure 1 below describes this continuum of low to high natural character.



**Figure 1:** Degree to which natural character is present

<sup>11</sup> *Brook Weatherwell-Johnson and others v Tasman District Council* [1996] W181/96.



### 3.3 OUTSTANDING VERSUS HIGH VALUES

The term 'outstanding' is a comparative evaluative term meaning to be conspicuous, eminent, exceptional, remarkable, clearly superior to others in the same group or category<sup>12</sup>.

Usually for something to be outstanding it should be obvious (in general terms) to the community and there is no need for expert analysis. Accordingly, consideration should be given to whether the combined significance of the relevant attributes meets the threshold of 'outstanding' when compared to other freshwater bodies.

For freshwater bodies identified as outstanding, regional plan policies and rules will be seeking the retention / protection of their significant values. Policies and rules would largely prohibit use and development activities in those waterbodies (e.g. the taking of water, discharging to water, damming or instream works would be a non-complying or prohibited activity under the RMA).

Factors that might limit the feasibility of protecting a particular river, reach or lake might include significant abstractions or diversions (e.g. community water supply or hydroelectricity generation) or discharges (including the number of industrial or farm dairy discharges to water).

Notwithstanding that, water bodies not otherwise identified as 'outstanding' can still have regionally or locally significant values (e.g. at a whanau, local, iwi, district or regional level) that may need to be recognised and provided for in management decisions.

'Significant' water bodies, where values are known, are proposed to be scheduled in a revised Freshwater Plan. However, decisions in prioritising between conflicting uses/values and/or balancing between use and development and protection of specific values are then made on a case-by-case basis through the individual consenting processes.

### 3.4 EXPLANATION OF ATTRIBUTES FOR ASSESSING OUTSTANDING FRESHWATER VALUES

Recognising the subjectivity of landscape assessments and any 'weighing' given to various values, the following biophysical and sensory and associative attributes were selected to assist the study in identifying, comparing and evaluating the values of different water bodies.

#### Biophysical attributes

Biophysical attributes comprise of:

- *Physical (abiotic) systems and landforms* including river channel or lake bed, riparian edge and wider landscape character, including degree of modification of the freshwater body
- *Living (biotic) systems* including diversity and condition of the freshwater body and associated ecological processes.

Biotic and abiotic factors combine to create an ecosystem. Accordingly, the two are interrelated and it is their collective whole which defines the biophysical characteristics of an area.

#### Sensory and associative attributes

Freshwater bodies were further assessed in terms of the human associative values (i.e. their sensory or associative attributes) of the waterbody. Sensory or associative attributes comprise of:

- *legibility or expressiveness*: formative natural processes or historical influences which helped create the feature or landscape are clearly displayed in the landscape (i.e. it is easy to "read" the processes that formed a landscape)
- *naturalness*: the landscape/feature displays rugged, untamed characteristics and appears to be largely unmodified by human intervention such as built structures, discharges, changes to flow regimes, earthworks and reclamation
- *vividness*: the way in which a feature/landscape remains in the memory and may form part of a person's recollection of an area. The landscape/feature is visually

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<sup>12</sup> Boffa Miskell Limited 2011 internal workshop.

striking, and may be iconic or symbolic to the area

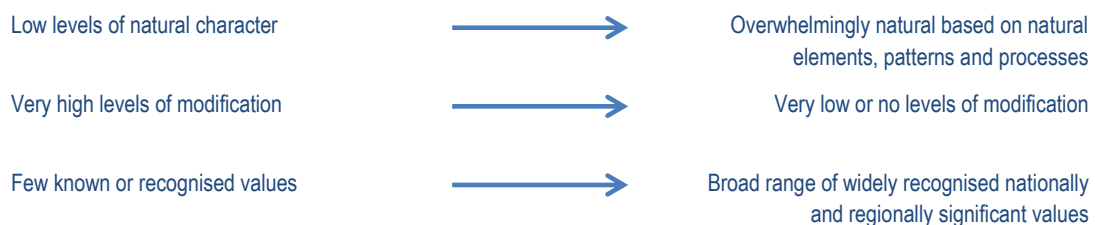
- *coherence*: the patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform
- *transient values*: how the regular occurrence of transient features such as seasonal changes in natural water level fluctuations or the presence of wildlife, contribute to the character of the feature or landscape
- *shared and recognised values*: the features and values of the water body are widely known and highly valued by the local and wider community for its contribution to a sense of place or are recognised as being regionally important for their fishery, angling and recreational features, or scientific or educational features.
- *tangata whenua values*: values to tangata whenua are inherent in the feature or landscape and add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special or widely known place
- *historical associations*: knowledge of historic activities that occurred in or around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community places on the feature or landscape.

The assessment framework in Table 1 overleaf outlines key attributes and parameters that were considered as part of the assessment of the extent of natural elements, patterns and processes and the significance of biophysical, associative and sensory values.

As part of the assessment, the relative values of attributes are considered having regard to a five-point scale- ranging from very low to very high - alongside a description of the biophysical, associative and sensory values identified. Note the scale is indicative only for comparative purposes, it is not necessary for a waterbody to score 5 in all three categories to be considered outstanding.

*“Outstanding’ is a comparative evaluative term meaning to be conspicuous, eminent, exceptional, remarkable, clearly superior to others in the same group or category”.*

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Very low	Low	Moderate	High	Very high



**Table 1:** Framework for assessing the significance of freshwater biophysical, sensory and associative values

Attributes and values		Explanation	Scale of significance (judgement made on a five-point scale)	Information sources
Biophysical	River channel or lake bed	<p>Modification to cross section (e.g. slope-banks) and long section (e.g. cut through meanders). This also includes changes to a river bed width (e.g. narrowing of the channel), which is commonly undertaken in modified rivers with valuable land adjacent.</p> <p>Changes to the bed sediment should also be taken account of in this attribute.</p>	<p>1= Very highly modified water body (i.e. straightened and channelised, often with concrete or rock fill banks) often within an urban context</p> <p>2= A highly modified channel shape or width but with semi natural reaches or channel shapes in some areas</p> <p>3= Waterbody displays a patchwork with moderate natural channel shape in places together with many human influences such as long stretches of stream realignment</p> <p>4= A highly natural water body displaying occasional pockets or individual minor modifications to its channel/bed shape (i.e. small stretches of stream realignment)</p> <p>5= A very highly natural water body with no or very few modifications to its channel/bed shape.</p>	<p>Aerial photographs</p> <p>TRC, NIWA, and other data</p> <p>Site visits</p>
	Degree of modification of flow regime	<p>Hydrological information on a rivers' low, median and mean flows assist in determining natural character.</p> <p>Substantial flow that appears to fit the nature and scale of the channel may suggest a higher degree of natural character.</p> <p>Dewatered bed or 'misfit' flows suggest upstream diversions, which reduce natural character.</p>	<p>1=Very highly modified or diverted flow/water-take (e.g. large-scale dams; takes averaging 50% or more of median flow)</p> <p>2=Highly modified or diverted flow (e.g. small-scale dams, irrigation or flood channels)</p> <p>3= Moderately modified or diverted flow (e.g. several irrigation takes taking a moderate proportion of MALF)</p> <p>4= Relatively low levels of modified or diverted flow (e.g. few irrigation takes taking minor proportion (&lt;5%) of low flow)</p> <p>5= Highly natural flow regime with no modifications to the flow pattern.</p>	<p>Aerial photographs</p> <p>TRC, NIWA, and other data</p> <p>Site visits</p>
	Water quality	<p>Perception of the water quality, especially taking into account of visual and biological aspects such as water clarity, ecological health, nutrient content, temperature and faecal coliforms.</p>	<p>1= Very highly contaminated or permanently discoloured water displaying very high levels of human induced changes to the water quality with limited life supporting capacity</p> <p>2= Water usually displaying high levels of contamination mainly from adjacent diffuse sources from land use activities (agricultural leaching etc)</p> <p>3= Water displaying reasonable levels of naturalness although contains occasional high-moderate levels of human induced changes to part of the waterway or at some times</p> <p>4= Water displaying relatively high levels of water quality with small or rare amounts of impurities caused further upstream (e.g. by occasional stock crossing or forest harvesting)</p> <p>5= Highly natural water quality displaying no human induced change.</p>	<p>TRC, NIWA, and other data</p>

Attributes and values	Explanation	Scale of significance (judgement made on a five-point scale)	Information sources
<b>Exotic <u>aquatic</u> flora and fauna</b>	<p>Presence of aquatic flora and fauna within the water body such as aquatic weeds, exotic fish (including trout and salmon) and algal blooms from human induced factors can reduce the natural character of the waterbody.</p> <p>Note algal bloom may be evident in some rivers due to seasonal low flows.</p>	<p>1= Freshwater system choked with exotic aquatic flora and fauna</p> <p>2= Large areas of introduced flora and fauna (including pest fish) evident (in approximately 75% of river)</p> <p>3= Occasional stretches (some quite long) of introduced flora and fauna evident within waterway (approx. 50% of river)</p> <p>4= Small, often isolated pockets of introduced flora and fauna evident (less than 20% of total river), however river displaying very high levels of naturalness</p> <p>5= No evidence of introduced flora or fauna within the water channel.</p>	<p>TRC, DOC, NIWA, and other data</p> <p>REC system</p> <p>Site visits</p>
<b>Native <u>aquatic</u> flora and fauna</b>	<p>Presence and diversity of native aquatic flora and fauna, including habitats for nationally threatened or regionally distinctive species.</p>	<p>1=No record of native aquatic species. Barriers to fish passage present</p> <p>2= Freshwater system may provide small and/or fragmented stretches of habitat for native aquatic species, however, barriers to fish passage are present</p> <p>3= Freshwater system provides small and/or fragmented stretches of habitat for native aquatic species with no known barriers for fish passage</p> <p>4= Record of nationally threatened or regionally distinctive native aquatic species present, in small numbers, with suitable habitat and/or fish passage</p> <p>5=Record of significant populations of nationally threatened or regionally distinctive native aquatic species present, with suitable habitat and/or fish passage.</p>	<p>TRC, DOC, NIWA, and other data</p> <p>REC system</p> <p>Site visits</p>
<b>Structures and human modifications within the waterbody or riparian edge</b>	<p>Instream structures including dams, groynes, stopbanks, diversions, gravel extractions which may affect the level of natural character of the river channel.</p> <p>Other structures might include bridges or roads.</p>	<p>1=Channel or bed completely modified or artificial (i.e. dam/ weir/flood defence structure)</p> <p>2=Significant parts of the river channel have been affected or encroached upon by human intervention (i.e. a suburban/highly managed agricultural land, including: gravel workings, part-channelisation)</p> <p>3=Occasional 'reaches' of human modifications (i.e. a settled rural landscape with bridge/ aqueduct supports, pylon footing)</p> <p>4=Limited human intervention (i.e. occasional bridge abutments/ power pole within the river channel)</p> <p>5=Overwhelmingly natural with no/ very limited evidence of human interference.</p>	<p>Aerial photos</p> <p>Council, GIS, consents and other data</p> <p>REC and LCDB</p> <p>Site visits</p>

Attributes and values		Explanation	Scale of significance (judgement made on a five-point scale)	Information sources
	<b>Vegetation cover in the riparian edge</b>	<p>Dominance of native communities in natural patterns (the presence of exotic species in natural patterns will reduce natural character but is of higher naturalness than the absence of such vegetation (unless this is natural) or the presence of planted vegetation).</p> <p>This includes all bankside vegetation as well as vegetation within 'islands'.</p> <p>Vegetation comprises all types, including grasses, remnant scrub, shrubs and trees. In some instances, the natural elements and patterns may indicate limited vegetation (i.e. where native grasses or herbs are the only form of vegetation in the area).</p>	<p>1= Complete absence of vegetation due to human induced changes (or limited presence (in pockets) of exotic vegetation such as occasional willow, gorse or broom)</p> <p>2= Exotic vegetation with complete absence of native species within a pastoral/ semi urban setting</p> <p>3= Predominantly exotic vegetation in natural patterns (i.e. willows/ gorse) and/ or patches of remnant indigenous vegetation</p> <p>4= Fragmented areas of native and exotic vegetation in natural patterns. Predominance of native vegetation</p> <p>5= Overwhelmingly indigenous vegetation with no or few introduced species.</p>	<p>Aerial photos</p> <p>Council, GIS, and other data</p> <p>REC and LCDB</p> <p>Site visits</p>
<b>Sensory</b>	<b>Legibility or expressiveness</b>	<p>Presence of formative natural processes or historical influences that helped to create the feature or landscape are clearly displayed in the landscape.</p>	<p>1= Formative processes for the feature or landscape not evident</p> <p>2= Formative processes for the feature or landscape are present but not clearly defined or apparent in the landscape or feature</p> <p>3= Formative processes for the feature or landscape are present only in small fragmented pockets of the landscape or feature</p> <p>4= Formative processes for the feature or landscape are present and obvious in parts of the landscape or feature</p> <p>5= Formative processes for the feature or landscape are demonstrably present and obvious across much of the landscape or feature.</p>	<p>Aerial photos</p> <p>Landscape assessment information</p>
	<b>Aesthetic and scenic values</b>	<p>Presence of visual characteristics that contribute to important aesthetic/scenic values. How natural the experience is in seeing, feeling and perceiving. Includes smells, sounds, visual; sense of wildness, remoteness, isolation, i.e:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waterbody/landscape displays rugged, untamed 'wildness' characteristics</li> <li>• waterbody is largely unmodified by human intervention and comprises naturally functioning and healthy ecosystems</li> <li>• patterns of adjacent land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform</li> <li>• waterbody/landscape is visually striking, widely recognised within the local and wider community, and may be iconic or symbolic to the area.</li> </ul>	<p>1= Heavily modified landscape with complete absence of recorded aesthetic and/or scenic values</p> <p>2= Modified landscape with a pastoral/semi urban setting</p> <p>3= Large areas of the waterbody identified as containing moderate and/or fragmented natural character and aesthetic and scenic values</p> <p>4= Large areas of the water body identified as unmodified and or in a rural/natural setting that contributes to very high natural character and aesthetic and scenic values</p> <p>5= Significant parts of the water body identified as iconic, visually striking within a rural/natural setting, and generally containing pristine natural character and wilderness characteristics.</p>	<p>Aerial photos</p> <p>Council, GIS and other data</p> <p>Research of tourism and local information</p>

Attributes and values		Explanation	Scale of significance (judgement made on a five-point scale)	Information sources
	<b>Transient values</b>	Presence of wildlife or other values at certain times of the day, season or year that contribute to the character of the feature or landscape. Includes ephemeral human activity such as recreation, mahinga kai, walking, fishing, boating, and swimming.	<p>1= Transient values for the feature or landscape not evident</p> <p>2= Transient values for the feature or landscape are rarely present and only of limited or localized significance</p> <p>3= Transient values for the feature or landscape are present and are of limited or localized significance that occurs in small localised pockets of the landscape or feature</p> <p>4= Transient values for the feature or landscape are present and are of regional significance but regularly occur only in localised pockets of the landscape or feature</p> <p>5= Transient values for the feature or landscape are nationally or regionally important, demonstrably present and regularly occur across much of the landscape or feature.</p>	Council, GIS, consents and other data
<b>Associative</b>	<b>Shared and recognised values</b>	Water body contributes to a sense of place or is recognised for its fishery, angling and recreational features, or scientific or educational features.	<p>1= Shared values for the feature or landscape not evident</p> <p>2= Shared values for the feature or landscape are not obvious or widely recognized and are only of limited or localized significance</p> <p>3= Shared values for the feature or landscape are present and are of limited or localized significance that occurs in small localised pockets of the landscape or feature</p> <p>4= Shared values for the feature or landscape are present and are of regional significance but occurs only in localised pockets of the landscape or feature</p> <p>5= Shared values for the feature or landscape are nationally or regionally important, demonstrably present, widespread, and widely known.</p>	<p>Council, GIS, consents and other data</p> <p>Research of tourism information, artists and photographers</p>
	<b>Tangata whenua values</b>	Tangata whenua values are inherent in the feature or landscape and add to the feature or landscape being recognised as a special or widely known place.	<p>1= Values inherent in the feature or landscape not evident</p> <p>2= Values maybe present but are not obvious or widely recognised</p> <p>3= Values are only locally recognized (i.e. generally occur at a site level) and are not obvious at a landscape scale</p> <p>4= Record of tangata whenua values that are demonstrably present and inherent in the landscape or feature and recognized to be of localised significance</p> <p>5=Record of tangata whenua values that are demonstrably present and inherent in the landscape or feature and recognized to be of exceptional cultural and spiritual significance.</p>	<p>Statutory acknowledgements</p> <p>Targeted consultation (tangata whenua input into Freshwater Plan review)</p> <p>Council, GIS, consents and other data.</p>

Attributes and values	Explanation	Scale of significance (judgement made on a five-point scale)	Information sources
<p><b>Historical associations</b></p>	<p>Knowledge of historic activities that occurred in or around the feature or landscape is widely held and substantially influences and adds to the value the community places on the feature or landscape.</p>	<p>1= No record of historic activities that occurred in or around the feature or landscape</p> <p>2= Little evidence of historical significance</p> <p>3=Documentation and other literature recording parts of the water body as containing some historical values</p> <p>4= Record or other documentation of significant parts of the water body being of high or very high historical significance</p> <p>5= Record in statutory documents, that have been tested through public processes, of significant parts of the waterbody containing exceptional historical significance.</p>	<p>Heritage New Zealand register</p> <p>District plans</p> <p>Council, GIS, consents and other data</p>



The 18 m high waterfall, Dawson Falls or Te Rere o Noke, Egmont National Park



## 4. Candidate outstanding freshwater bodies

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Many rivers and reaches in Taranaki, particularly those in the headwaters of the Egmont National Park, have high natural values and/or other regionally significant freshwater values. However, as noted in the previous discussion, for a water body to be identified as ‘outstanding’, it must display values that, individually or in combination, are clearly superior to others. There is general consensus in reviewed literature that there will only be a small number of outstanding freshwater bodies identified throughout New Zealand and that the outstanding threshold should be up and around that of a water conservation order (albeit in a regional context).<sup>13</sup>

A desktop assessment was undertaken of selected Taranaki water bodies to determine whether they contained outstanding natural character, features, landscapes, and/or other freshwater values.

This section sets out the assessments for four rivers and lakes considered to be outstanding and/or needing to be maintained in their high natural state:

OFB 1	Hangatahua (Stony) River
OFB 2	Maketawa and Ngatoro streams
OFB 3	Lake Rotokare
OFB 4	Upper Manganui River.

Figure 2 overleaf shows the location of the selected rivers and lakes in the Taranaki region plus other freshwater bodies identified in section 5 of this report as regionally significant for their natural character, features, and/or amenity, recreational, fishery, ecological, cultural or historical associations.

Of note, in accordance with requirements set out in the NPSFM, water bodies identified as outstanding will have strong policies and rules that apply (in a revised Plan) to support the protection of their significant values.



*‘Many rivers and reaches in Taranaki, particularly those in the headwaters of the Egmont National Park, have high natural character and/or other regionally significant freshwater values.’*

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<sup>13</sup> Refer Ministry for the Environment. 2015.



**Figure 2:** Candidate outstanding or regionally significant freshwater bodies in the Taranaki region

## 4.1 OFB 1 HANGATAHUA (STONY) RIVER

### Outstanding freshwater body 1: Hangatahua (Stony) River

The Hangatahua (Stony) River originates from Mount Taranaki and the Pouakai Range before traversing a volcanic formed landscape. Lahar fields form a distinctive component of the wider catchment and are a result of successive volcanic eruptions. Downstream of the Egmont National Park boundary the resultant lahar mounds are largely covered by pasture to reveal rounded hillocks. These generate strong visual features that repeat across the landscape.

The river is 28.5 kilometers long and draining a 52 km<sup>2</sup> area. It is unique in that it is Taranaki's only braided river. As such it contains visually striking rounded boulders, clear waters (when not affected by natural events) and is a highly dynamic largely unmodified river environment.

The waters of the Hangatahua River have long been recognized by the community for their outstanding natural characteristics and features. In 1985, it was granted a Local Water Conservation Notice<sup>14</sup>, the first of its kind.

The river is referred to in Maori mythology and is commonly regarded as the most sacred river in Taranaki. The river is frequently represented in art and literature.<sup>15</sup>

The river contains regionally important fisheries and angling features, scenic characteristics and recreational features and cultural, historical and educational features.<sup>16</sup>

The Freshwater Plan and RPS provides for the retention of the waters of the Hangatahua River in their natural state (as originally provided by the local water conservation notice).

Figure 3 shows the mapped extent of the Hangatahua (Stony) River catchment considered to be outstanding. It covers the Hangatahua (Stony) River, its associated tributaries, ponds, wetlands and tarns, from its source to its entry to the Tasman Sea.

A table summarizing the assessment of the attributes and values of the river follows.



*The Hangatahua (Stony) River protected by the first order of its kind ever granted in New Zealand – a local water conservation order.*

<sup>14</sup> Taranaki Regional Council, 1991.

<sup>15</sup> Boffa Miskell, 2014.

<sup>16</sup> Tucker, J, 2014.

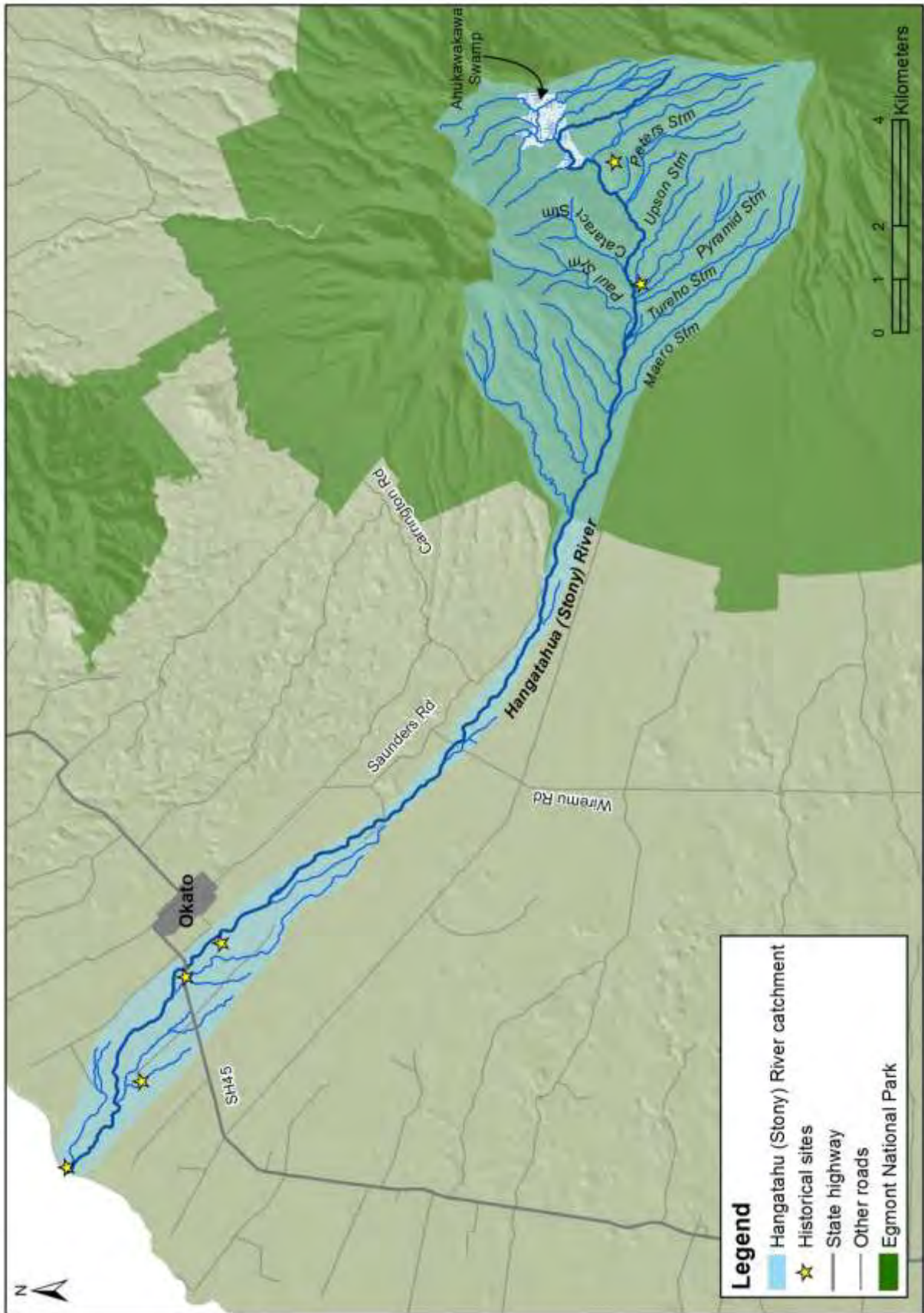


Figure 3: Hangatahu (Stony) River catchment

Landscape attributes		Evaluation	Assessment
<b>Biophysical</b>	Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taranaki's only braided river</li> <li>Rounded boulders lining the river channel form a striking feature associated with the geology of the river</li> <li>Excellent water quality throughout the catchment – high clarity, low turbidity and very low nutrients (however this water quality has declined in recent times due to natural erosion events in the Egmont National Park)</li> </ul>	Very high
	Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large river providing habitat and access for native and sports fish to Egmont National Park</li> <li>A source of sphagnum moss wetlands in the headwaters within Egmont National Park (Ahukawakawa Swamp) supports clean water with strong biotic associations. Excellent macro invertebrate community health</li> <li>High native fish density and the presence of threatened or regionally distinctive species including koaro and short jawed kokopu</li> <li>Blue Rata Scenic Reserve contains regionally distinctive northern rata, established terrestrially after debris flow</li> <li>Indigenous riparian vegetation in the upper reaches</li> </ul>	
<b>Sensory</b>	Legibility or expressiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formative processes associated with a braided river form and rounded boulders which roll down the river in high flow events are highly visible</li> </ul>	Very high
	Naturalness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper and middle reaches very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values particularly in the upper reaches</li> <li>No consented discharges to or takes from the river</li> <li>Water quantity and flows and steep gradient in upper and mid reaches contribute to rapids and to the river's high wild and scenic character</li> <li>Most of the river bed retains high natural form with limited modification</li> <li>The margins of the river in the mid to lower reaches define an abrupt edge within a working rural landscape</li> </ul>	
	Vividness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The configuration of a large boulder lined braided river and crystal clear water are striking features within the landscape which remain strong in the memory</li> </ul>	
	Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited discordant elements disrupt the distinctive patterns of boulders along the river channel</li> </ul>	
	Transient values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River exposed to some of the heaviest rain in New Zealand with rocks rolling down the river in high flows. River frequently changing its course</li> </ul>	
<b>Associative</b>	Shared and recognised values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very popular and highly rated trout angling in the main stem. River is a fast flowing medium-sized river providing high-quality flyfishing for both brown and rainbow trout. It was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> best angling river in Taranaki</li> <li>Valued for its sightseeing (Bell Falls near the top), tramping and walkways, swimming and picnicking places, and challenges for kayakers</li> <li>River is iconic to the region and identified in art and literature as being the most sacred river in Taranaki</li> <li>River recognised by community as having outstanding characteristics and features – <i>Local Conservation Order 1985, Taranaki Regional Council Transitional Regional Plan 1991, Freshwater Plan, and RPS</i></li> </ul>	Very high
	Tangata whenua values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong cultural spiritual associations for the Taranaki iwi and is acknowledged in Maori mythology with the arrival of Mount Taranaki</li> <li>Along the reach of the river were significant pā and kainga. Down at the mouth area were tauranga waka and pūkāwa (reefs)</li> </ul>	
	Historical associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological sites and rich in historical associations, including Nga Weka pa and battle site</li> </ul>	
<b>Overall rating:</b>			<b>Outstanding</b>



**Mt Taranaki and upper reaches of the Hangatahua (Stony) River**



**Lower reaches of the Hangatahua (Stony) River**

## 4.2 OFB 2 LAKE ROTOKARE

### Outstanding freshwater body 2: Lake Rotokare

Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve is the largest wetland and lake habitat within a fenced sanctuary in New Zealand. The 230 ha Reserve is located in the hill country and contains exceptional biophysical values with high scenic and recreational associations.. While owned by the Crown, the Reserve is jointly administered by the South Taranaki District Council and a community group – the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust.

Lake Rotokare is one of the largest natural lakes in Taranaki with a surface area of 17.8 ha and an average depth of over 6 metres. The lake, which was formed by a large slip, is fed entirely by natural springs and is drained at the western end of the lake by the Ararata Stream, which is part of the Tangahoe catchment. The native forest and wetland remnants surrounding Lake Rotokare is the last large remnant of the Ngaere Swamp and the only large area of native vegetation in the south-western part of Taranaki.

The Reserve is in pristine condition and contains exceptional visual qualities, scientific, educational and amenity values. The Reserve has an exceptional diversity and composition of wetland and riparian habitats and native species (due to predator proof fencing and active management by the Trust).

The swamp area is dominated by raupo, flax, and purei/makura, along with juvenile pukatea and kahikatea, and coprosma. In low-lying areas, pukatea, swamp maire and large kahikatea dominate.

The lake is rich in plant life, including water millet and jointed baumea/jointed twig rush, which are uncommon in Taranaki. A large number of nationally threatened and regionally distinctive fauna species are present in the Reserve, including the ‘Acutely Threatened (Nationally Endangered)’ Australasian bittern) and the ‘At Risk (Sparse)’ spotless crake, fernbird and the gold striped gecko. Banded kokopu, koura, and short and long-finned eel are present in forest creeks and the lake.

The lake is also a popular recreational area for tramping, picnicking, and boating and has important cultural and heritage associations. However, high naturally-occurring cyanobacteria levels reduce water quality in the lake and can impact upon its recreational use.

Figure 4 shows the mapped extent of the Lake Rotokare and environs considered to be outstanding. It covers the extent of the Scenic Reserve, including the lake and associated tributaries and wetlands.

A table summarizing the assessment of the attributes and values of the lake follow.



*Lake Rotokare and environs in pristine condition largely due to predator proof fencing and the efforts of local community work.*

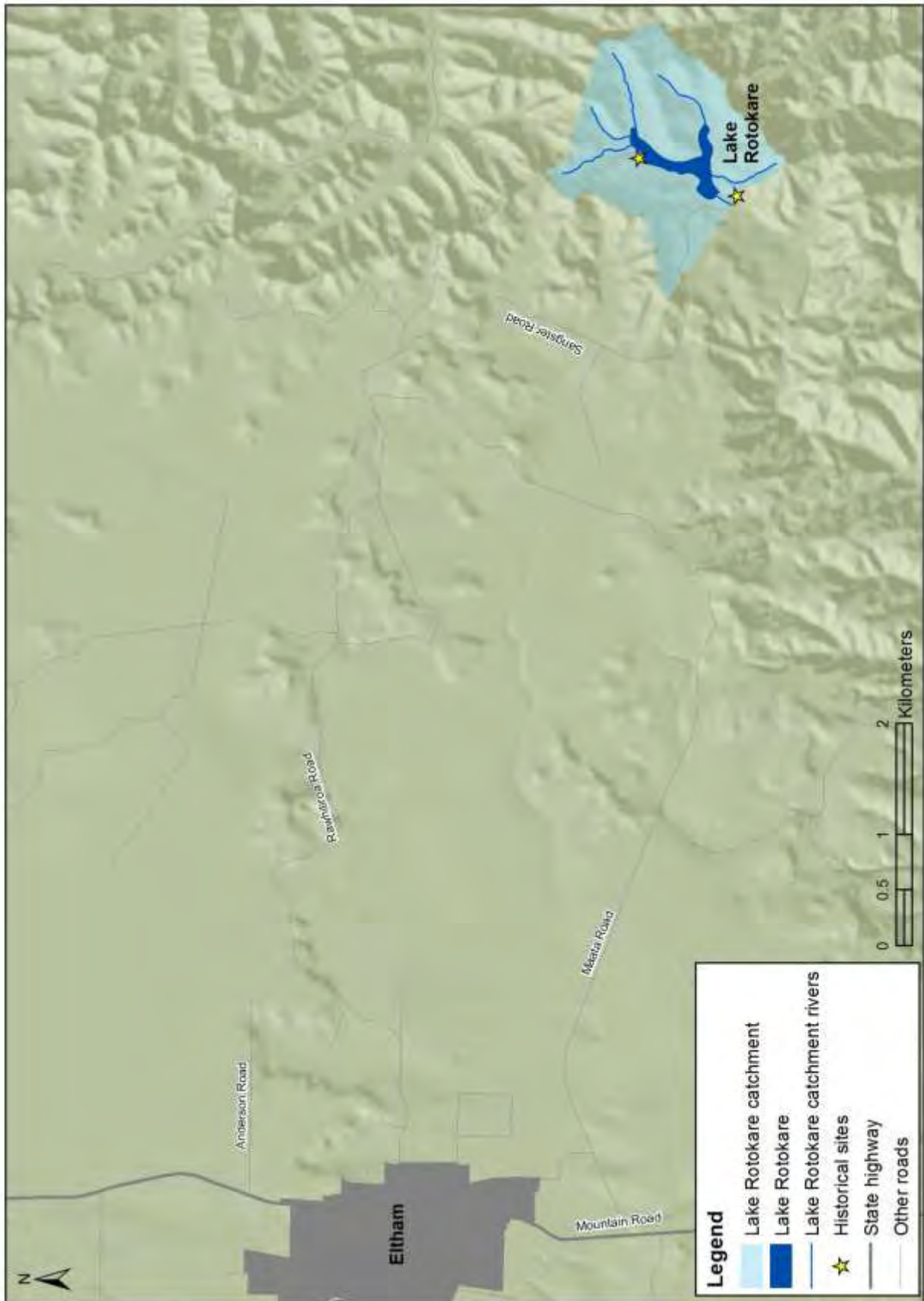


Figure 4: Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve



Landscape attributes		Evaluation	Assessment
<b>Biophysical</b>	Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landslide responsible for forming a dammed inland lake fed entirely by natural springs. Large natural lakes are uncommon in Taranaki</li> <li>The last large remnant of the Ngaere Swamp</li> </ul>	Very high
	Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wider catchment contains the only large area of native forest in the south-western part of Taranaki</li> <li>The lake, swamp area and drier hill slopes are rich in native vegetation which remains in excellent condition because of the predator proof fencing and active protection</li> <li>Exceptional biodiversity values protected within the predator enclosure. A thriving population of birdlife including kiwi, karearea (NZ falcon), tui, korimako (bellbird), kereru, riroriro (grey warbler), miromiro (tomtit), tieke (saddleback), popokatea (whitehead), toutouwai (Nth Island robin)</li> </ul>	
<b>Sensory</b>	Legibility or expressiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of historic landslide remains apparent as a contained mountain lake which has dammed natural springs</li> <li>Diverse native plant communities expressive of former land cover throughout the surrounding areas of rural landscapes</li> </ul>	Very high
	Naturalness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The entirety of the lake is enclosed by forested slopes which retain a high degree of naturalness and intactness</li> <li>Limited modification associated with recreation facilities and use accessed from the reserves southern end and a looped walking track around the lake. No consented discharges or water takes</li> </ul>	
	Vividness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The forest clad lake enclosure forms a striking and memorable feature within the Taranaki hill country</li> </ul>	
	Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intact vegetation remains in harmony with the underlying swamp and hill country habitats</li> </ul>	
	Transient values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities to experience wildlife have been reinforced/enhanced by the construction of the predator proof enclosure</li> </ul>	
<b>Associative</b>	Shared and recognised values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very popular for recreational use including picnicking, walking, bird and wildlife watching and boating</li> <li>Lake identified as one of the Department of Conservation's "magical places" referring to 40 wetlands to visit in New Zealand publication</li> <li>Lake recognised by community as having outstanding characteristics and features in the Regional Policy Statement and through the establishment and continued support for the Rotokare Scenic Reserves Trust</li> </ul>	Very high
	Tangata whenua values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hangi stones found, indicates that the area was used as a rest area by tangata whenua on their travels across the region. Harakeke was and still is gathered from around the lake edges.</li> <li>Ngati Tupaia hapu are the tangata whenua and have ensured that their obligations as kaitiaki for the area have been maintained through the long established and positive relationships with the Rotokare Trust</li> </ul>	
	Historical associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotokare and the surrounding bush were identified as a significant "beauty spot" and set aside as a reserve in the early 1870's</li> </ul>	
<b>Overall rating:</b>			<b>Outstanding</b>



Lake Rotokare shoreline

### 4.3 OFB 3 MAKETAWA AND NGATORO STREAMS

#### Outstanding freshwater body 3: Maketawa and Ngatoro streams

The Maketawa and Ngatoro streams are small ring plain waterbodies with exceptional natural features and landscapes due to its very high water quality and largely unmodified catchments.

The Maketawa and Ngatoro catchments' headwaters lie on the north-eastern slopes of Mount Taranaki. The small streams and their tributaries meander through the Egmont National Park and through farmland on the upper ring plain, just south of Inglewood until it joins up with the Manganui River.

The Maketawa and Ngatoro streams are largely unmodified, with few water pressures. The catchments have a relatively small number of discharges to water and their water quality is perceived as being comparable to that of the Hangatahua (Stony) River. The Ngatoro Stream upstream of the Ngatoro-iti confluence provides water for the Inglewood township. However, because of the catchments' special status under the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*, only minor takes of surface water have been allowed downstream of the confluence.

The streams are exceptional in their physical form, and in the diversity and composition of aquatic and riparian habitat, natural flow characteristics and hydraulic processes, and the pattern and range of natural water level fluctuations. The existing natural flows are a major contributor to the catchments' regionally important natural, scenic and recreational values.

The streams are also highly valued for angling, particularly in the lower reaches) and provides important habitat for trout spawning and threatened native species such as koaro and short jawed kokopu.

Figure 5 shows the mapped extent of the study area considered to be outstanding. It covers the Maketawa Stream and the Ngatoro Streams (excluding that part of the Ngatoro Stream upstream of the Ngatoro-iti Stream confluence).

A table summarizing the assessment of the attributes and values of the study area follow.



*“Existing natural flows are a major contributor to the catchment’s regionally important natural, scenic and recreational values.”*

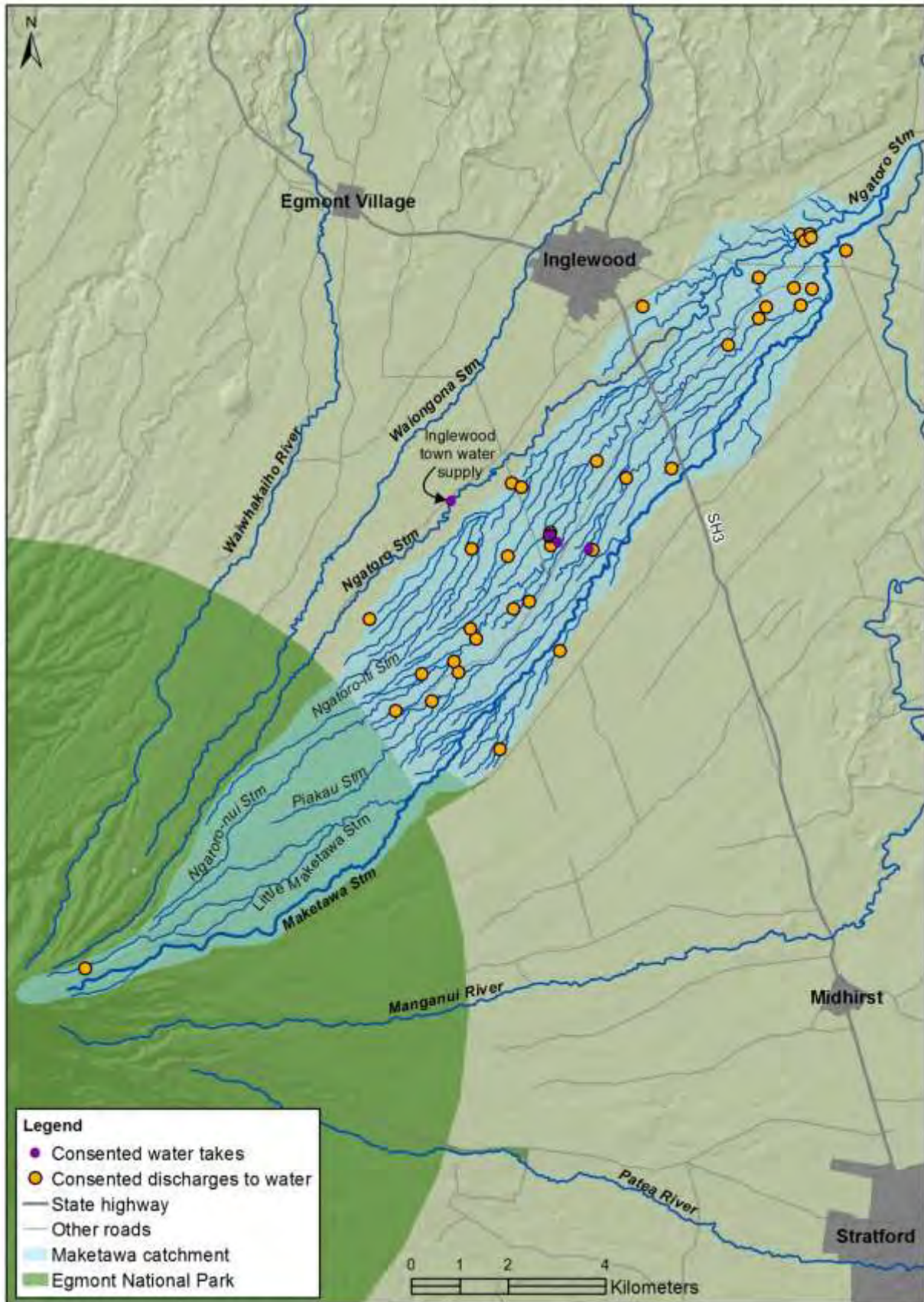


Figure 5: Maketawa Stream catchment

Landscape attributes		Evaluation	Assessment
<b>Biophysical</b>	Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median flows of 1,300 l/s at SH3. Largely unmodified natural flow characteristics and hydraulic processes, with a range of natural water level fluctuations.</li> <li>Excellent to good water quality throughout the catchment – high clarity, low nitrate and phosphorous levels</li> </ul>	Very high
	Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller ring plain river providing habitat and access for native and sports fish to Egmont National Park owing to unrestricted fish access and relative proximity to the sea</li> <li>Supports clean water with strong biotic associations. Excellent macro invertebrate community health comparable to that of the Hangatahua (Stony) catchment</li> <li>High native fish density and the presence of threatened or regionally distinctive species including koaro and short jawed kokopu</li> <li>Very good riparian vegetation owing to the generally entrenched nature of the catchment</li> </ul>	
<b>Sensory</b>	Legibility or expressiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural flow characteristics and hydraulic processes are highly visible</li> <li>Formative processes associated with rounded boulders which roll down the river in high flow events also highly visible.</li> </ul>	Very high
	Naturalness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper and middle reaches very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values</li> <li>Very steep gradient and water flows contribute to rapids and to the stream's high aesthetic values and scenic character</li> <li>Most of the stream bed retains high natural form with limited modification (36 consented discharges to water, only three consented minor takes)</li> <li>Very good riparian vegetation along margins of the stream, including parts of the stream meandering through a working rural landscape</li> </ul>	
	Vividness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The configuration of a large boulder lined stream, natural flow characteristics and crystal clear water are striking features within the landscape which remain strong in the memory</li> </ul>	
	Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited discordant elements disrupt the distinctive patterns of boulders along the stream channel</li> </ul>	
	Transient values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream exposed to some of the heaviest rain in New Zealand with rocks rolling down the stream in high flows.</li> </ul>	
<b>Associative</b>	Shared and recognised values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very popular and highly rated trout angling in the main stem. The Maketawa Stream is a fast flowing stream providing easy access to high-quality flyfishing for brown trout</li> <li>Stream recognised by community as having outstanding characteristics and features – Regional Freshwater Plan 2001, and Regional Policy Statement 2010</li> </ul>	Very high
	Tangata whenua values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stream is significant to several iwi in Taranaki and has been included as a statutory acknowledgement in the Treaty of Waitangi Settlements for Te Atiawa and Taranaki Iwi.</li> <li>One archaeological site of significance noted on the lower region of the stream.)</li> </ul>	
	Historical associations		
<b>Overall rating:</b>			<b>Outstanding</b>

#### 4.4 OFB 4 UPPER MANGANUI RIVER

##### Outstanding freshwater body 4: Upper Manganui River (upstream of the TrustPower weir)

The Manganui River, the largest tributary of the Waitara River, has a catchment area of 294 km<sup>2</sup>. However, the study area relates only to that part of the catchment up stream of the TrustPower Weir for the Motukawa Hydroelectricity Power Scheme and excluding the Te Popo Stream (which has a take from it for Midhirst's community water supply).

The Manganui catchment's headwaters lie on the north-eastern slopes of Mount Taranaki. The large river and tributaries meander through the Egmont National Park and through farmland on the upper ring plain, just south of Inglewood until it joins up with the Waitara River. The hydrology of the catchment is complicated by the diversion of water from the Manganui River to the Waitara River for hydroelectricity generation.

The river contains regionally important scenic levels and recreational values associated with current water levels and flows – particularly in the upper reaches upstream of the TrustPower weir that provides for hydroelectricity generation (the Motukawa Power Scheme). In the headwater's of the Manganui River, the Manganui Gorge is viewed and enjoyed by thousands of people each year using the ski-field walking track.

The Manganui River upstream of the TrustPower weir is largely unmodified (excluding the Te Popo Stream). Because of the Manganui catchment's special status under the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki*, no consents have been granted to take or use surface water from the catchment above the TrustPower weir (excluding the Te Popo Stream). The current water levels and natural flows are therefore a major contributor to the catchment's regionally important natural, scenic and recreational values.

The Manganui River is highly valued for angling and provides important habitat for trout spawning. It is the second most fished river in Taranaki (after the Waiwhakaiho).

The river is identified as having moderate access for native fish. Native fish species known to be present in the upper reaches include redfin bully, inanga and shortjawed kokopu.

Figure 6 shows the mapped extent of the Manganui catchment study area. It covers that part of the reach upstream of the TrustPower Weir, its associated tributaries, ponds, and wetlands, excluding the Te Popo Stream.



*Upper reaches of the Manganui River.*

A table summarizing the assessment of the attributes and values of the river follow.

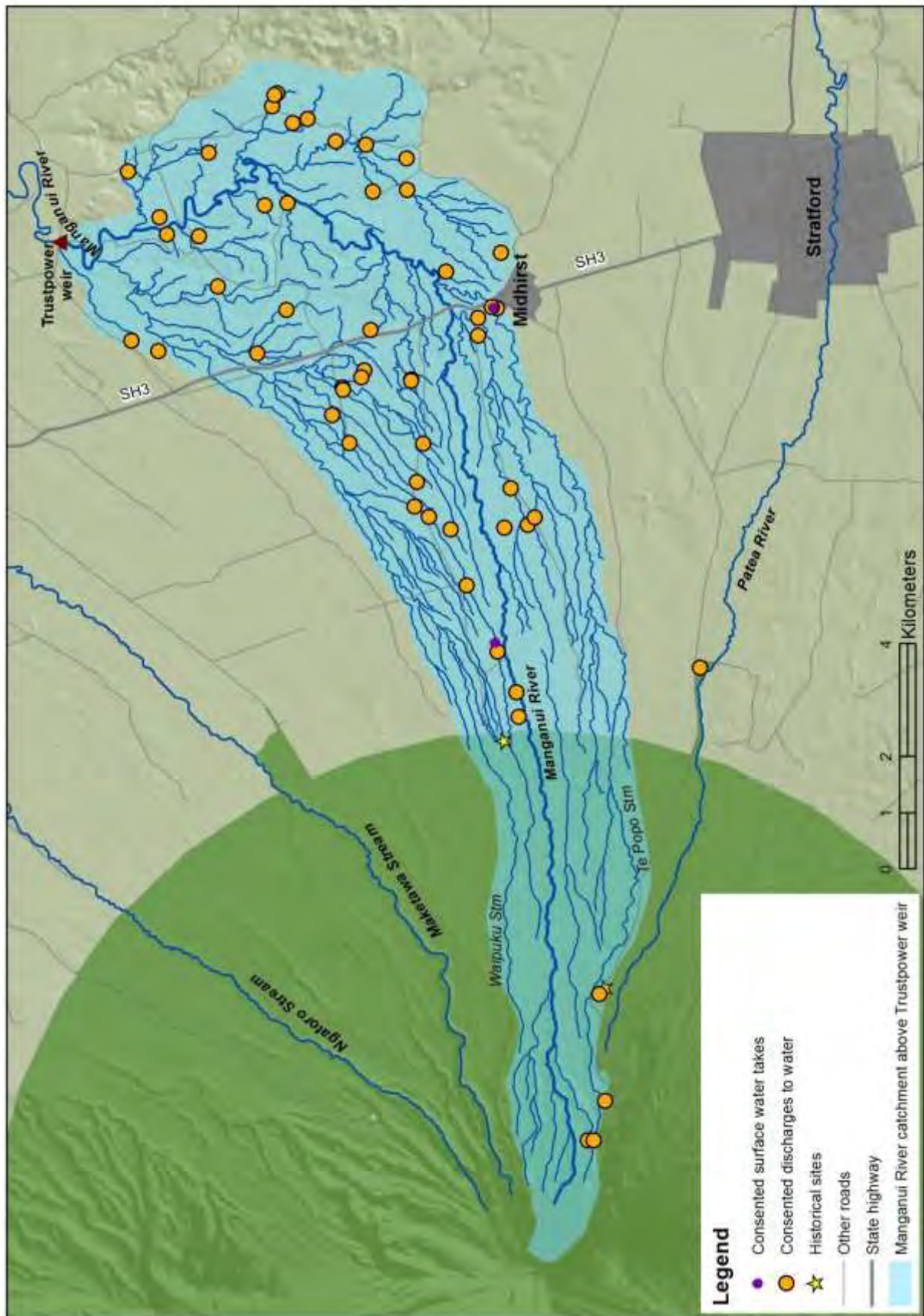


Figure 6: Manganui River catchment

Landscape attributes		Evaluation	Assessment
<b>Biophysical</b>	Abiotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median flows of 840 l/s at SH3. Largely unmodified natural flow characteristics and hydraulic processes, with a range of natural water level fluctuations.</li> <li>Excellent to good water quality throughout the reach</li> </ul>	High
	Biotic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller ring plain river providing habitat and moderate access for native and sports fish to Egmont National Park</li> <li>Provides important habitat for who/blue duck</li> <li>Very good riparian vegetation in upper catchment owing to the generally entrenched nature of the catchment</li> </ul>	
<b>Sensory</b>	Legibility or expressiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural flow characteristics and hydraulic processes are highly visible in the reach above the TrustPower weir. Vivid contrast in flows below the TrustPower diversion</li> </ul>	High
	Naturalness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The catchment retains a strong sense of naturalness in the upper reaches (upstream of the TrustPower weir) and is very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values</li> <li>Most of the stream bed retains moderate to high natural form despite limited levels of modification (&gt;50 discharge consents). Te Popo Stream flow regimes affected by Midhirst's community water supply take</li> <li>Very good riparian vegetation along margins of the stream, including parts of the stream meandering through a working rural landscape</li> </ul>	
	Vividness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High solitude and natural flow characteristics forms a striking and memorable feature within the upper ring plain</li> </ul>	
	Coherence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River below Egmont National Park boundary displays some discordant elements associated with adjacent land uses and patterns</li> </ul>	
	Transient values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River provides an extensive area of fishable water.</li> </ul>	
<b>Associative</b>	Shared and recognised values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very popular and highly rated trout angling in the main stem. The Manganui is a fast flowing river providing high-quality fly-fishing for both brown and rainbow trout</li> <li>Very highly rated for recreational uses and values (some swimming).</li> <li>Stream recognised by community as having regionally significant natural character, scenic or amenity values – Regional Freshwater Plan 2001 and Regional Policy Statement 2010 seek to protect natural character and instream values as far as is possible in their natural state</li> </ul>	Very high
	Tangata whenua values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The river is significant to a number of the iwi within Taranaki and has been included in a number of Treaty Settlements as a statutory acknowledgement area.</li> </ul>	
	Historical associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological sites</li> </ul>	
<b>Overall rating:</b>			<b>Very significant</b>



## 5. Other freshwater bodies with significant instream values

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As previously noted as part of this desktop assessment, a much larger number of Taranaki water bodies were identified as having regionally significant values that though they did not trigger the outstanding criterion nevertheless identified as containing regionally important natural character, features, and/or amenity, recreational, fishery, ecological, cultural or historical values.

Assessing the policies of the NPSFM, RPS and Freshwater Plan, the following range of freshwater values have been identified and waterways identified where these values are considered regionally significant and for which adverse effects will be managed to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of those instream values:

- aesthetic and scenic values
- contact recreation
- recreational fisheries (trout and whitebaiting)
- inanga and trout spawning values
- native fisheries
- cultural, spiritual, and historical associations.

Fifty-two rivers and lakes in Taranaki have been identified through this study as having attributes or values that are regionally significant (Figure 7).<sup>17</sup> These include the water bodies identified in section 4 of this report plus another 48 rivers, lakes or reaches highlighted through community input in the development of regional plans and policy statements.



*“Waterbodies not otherwise identified as ‘outstanding’ may still be identified as significant for which adverse effects resulting from activities must be avoided, remedied or mitigated.”*

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<sup>17</sup> Of note, 42 rivers and lakes have been identified as having high natural, ecological and amenity values in the current Freshwater Plan.



Figure 7: Taranaki freshwater bodies with regionally significant instream values

## 5.1 NATURAL CHARACTER, AESTHETIC AND SCENIC VALUES

The attribute 'natural character, aesthetic and scenic' applies to water bodies where people value particular natural qualities. Matters contributing to the aesthetic and scenic values for a waterbody are its visual and physical characteristics, including its natural form and character, flow regime, colour, clarity, morphology or location.

All Taranaki rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands may contain aesthetic and scenic values.

However, the following 21 rivers, reaches and lakes have been identified as regionally significant for their aesthetic and scenic values:

1. Hangatahua (Stony)
2. Huatoki Stream
3. Kai Auai Stream
4. Kapuni Stream
5. Katikara Stream
6. Lake Rotokare
7. Mimi River
8. Mohakatino River
9. Oakura River
10. Okahu Stream
11. Onaero River
12. Patea River
13. Tapuae Stream
14. Te Henui Stream
15. Timaru Stream
16. Tongaporutu River
17. Urenui River
18. Waingongoro River
19. Maketawa Stream
20. Manganui River
21. Waiwhakaiho, including Kai Auai Stream.



**Te Henui Stream and walkway, high amenity and scenic values in the heart of New Plymouth city**

## 5.2 CONTACT RECREATION

The attribute 'contact recreation' applies to water bodies' ability to be used for contact recreational activities, e.g. swimming. It involves:

- participants getting wet and where full immersion is likely
- site-focused (participants get in and out of the water at the same location).
- no commercial dimension (swimming is not offered as a stand-alone commercial recreation opportunity).<sup>18</sup>

All rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands may contain local contact recreational values. However, 14 water bodies were assessed as regionally significant (Table 2 overleaf) based upon having swimming sites and having regard to site characteristics such as public patronage (and access), scenic attractiveness, freshwater flows and quality, and presence of public facilities.

Swimming sites at river mouths within the coastal environment were considered as part of the assessment. These sites are popular because they provide a safe, warm river hole suitable for small children; they are often co-located with a beach. Their inclusion reflects the popularity of these sites with the community and, therefore, the Council's interest in them. Other matters taken into account are the presence of slippery or invasive weed growth, and the visual clarity of the water.

Swimming sites without public access were excluded from the analysis.



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<sup>18</sup> Definition as per adopted by the Gisborne District Council report 'Swimming: Application of the RiVAS to the Gisborne District.'

**Table 2:** Water bodies of regional significance for contact recreation

River/lake	Location
Te Henui Stream	River mouth, East End
Lake Rotomanu	Western beach, Waiwhakaiho catchment
Waiwhakaiho River	Merrilands Domain
	Burgess Park/Meeting of the Waters Scenic Reserve (“power house pool”)
	Rimu Street extension, Strandon
	Adjacent to Lake Rotomanu
Patea River	King Edward Park, Stratford
	Lake Rotorangi, adjacent to boat ramp
	Boat ramp, Patea
Waingongoro River	Eltham Presbyterian Camp
	Ohawe Beach
Kaupokonui River	Kaupokonui Beach domain
Lake Opunake	Adjacent to boat ramp, Waiaua catchment
Timaru Stream	End of Weld Road
Oakura River	D/s State Highway 45 bridge
Hangatahua (Stony) River	State Highway 45 bridge and along walkway
Waitara River (lower reaches)	Town wharf
Urenui River	Urenui estuary
Manganui River	Everett Park (d/s Kurapete S)
Lake Ratapiko	Boat ramp, Waitara catchment



**Swimmers in the Hangatahua (Stony) River**

### 5.3 RECREATIONAL FISHERIES (TROUT AND WHITEBAITING)

The attribute 'recreational fisheries' applies to rivers and reaches particularly valued for recreational fishing. This assessment focused on recreational fishing for brown and/or rainbow trout (as there is no salmon angling in Taranaki rivers) and whitebaiting.

All rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands may contain recreational fishery values.<sup>19</sup> However, Fish and Game New Zealand<sup>20</sup> have identified 27 waterbodies that, in their view, are of regional importance for trout fishing and/or whitebaiting (Table 3).

Unless stated otherwise, recreational fishery values apply to the main stem of the named waterbody/reach, rather than all the tributaries.



Waihwaiho and fishing

<sup>19</sup> Native fish species typically do not require the in-stream flows required to sustain healthy recreational fishery populations.

<sup>20</sup> Taranaki Regional Council, 2013.

**Table 3:** Water bodies of regional significance for their trout or whitebait fishery values

Water body	Significant trout fishery values	Significant whitebait fishery values
Hangatahua (Stony)	✓	✓
Huatoki Stream	✓	
Kapuni Stream	✓	
Kaupokonui Stream	Main stem, Mangawhero Stream and Dunns Creek	✓
Manawapou River		✓
Mimi River		✓
Mohakatino River		✓
Oakura River	✓	✓
Okahu Stream	✓	
Onaero River		✓
Otakeho Stream	✓	
Patea River	Main stem, and Kahouri and Paetahi streams	✓
Tangahoe River		✓
Tapuae Stream	✓	✓
Taungatara Stream	✓	
Te Henui Stream	✓	✓
Timaru Stream	✓	✓
Tongaporutu River		✓
Urenui River		✓
Waiaua River	Main stem and Lake Opunake	
Waingongoro River	Main stem and Mangatoki Stream	✓
Waiongana Stream	Main stem and Mangaoraka Stream	Main stem and Mangaoraka Stream
Waitara River	Main stem below the Manganui River confluence, Mangamawhete Stream, Lake Ngangana, Lake Ratapiko, Waipuku Stream, Manganui River, Te Popo Stream, Ngatoro Stream and Maketawa Stream	✓ (below the Manganui River confluence)
Waitotara River		✓
Waiwhakaiho	Main stem, Mangorei Stream, Kai Auai Stream, Lake Rotomanu and Lake Mangamahoe	✓
Warea River	✓	
Whenuakura		✓

## 5.4 TROUT AND INANGA SPAWNING

This section addresses spawning habitat regionally significant for replenishing recreational fishery stocks (i.e. trout and inanga). Native fishery habitats important for biodiversity purposes are addressed in section 5.5.

The attribute 'trout spawning' applies to water bodies valued for providing essential habitat to meet the requirements of spawning and juvenile trout. Of note trout spawning habitat is not confined to the main stems of named waterbodies but also the tributaries.

Similarly, the attribute 'inanga spawning' applies to freshwater bodies that provide essential habitat and support for the development of healthy inanga populations, i.e. whitebait species.

Of note trout do not recruit between catchments in Taranaki, as there is a lack of a sea run trout population. As a consequence, any activities impacting on spawning success in a river has direct implications on the trout population within that catchment.

Inanga spawn over a relatively small area in the lower reaches of a river. Activities adversely impacting on these areas therefore may have a disproportionate impact on the spawning success of inanga in that catchment.

This study, based upon Fish and Game New Zealand information,<sup>21</sup> has identified 26 catchments with waterbodies/reaches that are significant for their trout and/or inanga habitat and spawning values (Table 4).



**Whitebaiting, popular recreational past-time noticeable at many Taranaki river mouths**

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<sup>21</sup> Taranaki Regional Council, 2013.



**Table 4:** Water bodies of regional significance for their trout or whitebait habitat spawning values

Catchment	Significant trout spawning habitat (includes named waterbodies plus tributaries)	Significant whitebait spawning habitat		
		2 km upstream of river mouth	1 km upstream of river mouth	500 m upstream of river mouth
Hangatahua (Stony) River	✓			
Huatoki Stream	✓			
Hutiwai Stream			✓	
Kapuni Stream	✓			
Kaupokonui Stream	Main stem and Mangawhero Stream and Dunns Creek			
Manawapou River			✓	
Mimi River		✓		
Oakura River	Main stem and Kiri Stream			
Okahu Stream	✓			
Onaero River		✓		
Otakeho Stream	✓			
Patea River	Main stem, Kahouri, Konini, Mangarangi, Paetahi, and Piakau streams	✓		
Tangahoe River			✓	
Tapuae Stream	✓			
Taungatara Stream	Main stem and Cold Creek			
Te Henui Stream	✓			
Timaru Stream	✓			
Tongaporutu River		✓		
Urenui River		✓		
Waiaua River	✓			
Waingongoro River	Main stem, Climie Stream, Mangatoki Stream			
Waiongana Stream	Main stem, Awai Stream,, Mangaoraka Stream		✓	
Waitara River	Mangamawhete, Maketawa, Waipuku, Te Popo, Ngatoro, Ngatoro-nui, Ngatoro-iti, Piakau and Waitepuke streams, Manganui River	✓		
Waitotara River		✓		
Waiwhakaiho River	Main stem, Kai Auai Stream, Araheke Stream, Mangamahoe Stream, Mangawarawara Stream, Mangakotutuku Stream, Mangorei Stream		✓	
Warea River	✓			
Remaining water bodies with coastal tidal influence)				✓

## 5.5 NATIVE FISHERY HABITAT

Eighteen native freshwater fish species inhabit freshwater ecosystems in the Taranaki region for all or part of their life-cycle.

In relation to 'native fishery habitat' nine species have been identified as significant for Taranaki due to their status as nationally threatened (based on the Department of Conservation threat classification) or because they have been identified as 'regionally distinctive'.<sup>22</sup> These are:

- Banded kokopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*)
- Brown mudfish (*Neochanna apoda*)
- Freshwater mussel (*Echyridella menziesii*)
- Giant kokopu (*Galaxias argenteus*)
- Inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*)
- Koaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*)
- Lamprey (*Geotria australis*)
- Lon finned eels (*Anguilla dieffenbachia*)
- Shortjaw kokopu (*Galaxias postvectis*).

The aforementioned species are proposed to have a high level of protection through provisions set out in the Proposed Plan. Of note other native species (i.e. bluegill bully, common bully, common smelt, crans bully, grey mullet, redfin bully, shortfin eel, torrentfish, upland bully and black flounder) are more locally

abundant, have a large spawning and habitat range and/or are less vulnerable to freshwater use and development.

Waterways were assessed based upon information from the New Zealand Freshwater Fish Database plus Council database information recording the presence of the aforementioned species.

For all species except lamprey, any site that contained more than one record for the same species, or had one record that found at least three individual fish, was determined to be regionally significant habitat. For lamprey it was determined that any site where at least one lamprey was recorded was regionally significant habitat.

This study identifies 51 catchments as providing habitat for nationally threatened or regionally distinctive native fish species (Table 5).

As with many regions/districts in New Zealand, freshwater ecosystems in Taranaki are under-surveyed in terms of native fishery habitat. Table 5 is therefore not an exhaustive list of regionally significant native fishery habitat (additional surveying would be expected to identify other sites over time). For further information refer to the report *Native Fishery values of significance for the Taranaki region*.



**Giant kokopu**, nationally 'at risk' and 'regionally distinctive'

<sup>22</sup> Taranaki Regional Council, 2016.

**Table 5:** Water bodies of known regional significance for their native fishery habitat values

Parent catchment	Reach / sub catchment <sup>(1)</sup>	Threatened or regionally distinctive (aquatic) species <sup>(2)</sup>
Hangatahua (Stony) River	Includes main stem and Cataract Stm	Koaro, Inanga, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Herekawe Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Longfin eels
Huatoki Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Lamprey, Longfin eels
Inaha Stream	Main stem	Lamprey, Freshwater mussel, Longfin eels
Kaihihi Stream	Includes Kaihihi Stm tributary, Mangatete St, Lake Corbett	Banded kokopu, Short jawed kokopu, Giant kokopu, Koaro, Longfin eels
Kakapo Stream	Main stem	Freshwater mussel
Kapoaiaia Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Inanga, Short jawed kokopu, Longfin eels
Kapuni Stream	Main stem	Koaro, Longfin eels
Katikara Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Koaro, Inanga, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Kaupokonui River	Includes main stem, Dunns Creek, Elliots Creek, Little Dunns Creek, Mangawhero & Mangawheroiti Stm	Lamprey, Inanga, Koaro, Longfin eels
Mangahume Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels
Mangaroa Stream	Unnamed wetland	Brown mudfish
Mangati Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Longfin eels
Matanehunehu Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels
Mimi River	Main stem	Freshwater mussel
Oakura River	Main stem, Wakamure Stm	Giant kokopu, Koaro, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Oaoti Stream	Includes main stem, Kiri Stm, Momona Stm, Te Maketu Stm	Lamprey, Longfin eels
Oaonui Stream	Main stem	Inanga, Lamprey, Longfin eels
Oeo Stream	Main stem	Lamprey, Longfin eels
Okahu Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Inanga, Koaro, Longfin eels
Okaweu Stream	Mounanga Stream	Inanga
Onaero River	Main stem, Kakapo Stm, Mangahewa Stm	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Inanga, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Otahi Stream	Main Stem	Inanga, Longfin eels
Otakeho Stream	Main stem	Koaro, Short jawed kokopu, Longfin eels
Ouri Stream	Main stem	Giant kokopu, Koaro, Inanga, Longfin eels
Parahaki Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Longfin eels
Patea River	Includes main Stem, Kahouri, Kaitieke & Konini streams, Lake Rotorangi, Makuri Stm, Mangaehu Stm, Mangaituku tributary, Mangamingi, Mangarangi, Ngaere, Piakau, Puniwhakau, Toko, Tutaeariari streams, unnamed Rawhitiroa swamp, Upokorau Stm, Wihapa Stm	Freshwater mussel, Banded kokopu, Brown mudfish, Koaro, Inanga, Longfin eels

Parent catchment	Reach / sub catchment <sup>(1)</sup>	Threatened or regionally distinctive (aquatic) species <sup>(2)</sup>
Punehu Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels
Tangahoe River	Lake Rotokare tributary, Puiatoe Stm, Tawhiti Stm	Banded kokopu, Longfin eels
Tapuae Stream	Main stem	Freshwater mussel, Longfin eels
Taungatara Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels
Te Henui Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Koaro, Inanga, Longfin eels, Lamprey, Short jawed kokopu
Timaru Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, , Koaro, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Tongaporutu River	Main stem, Hutiwai Stm and Tongaporutu tributaries	Freshwater mussel, Inanga
Urenui River	Urenui River tributary	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu
Wahamoko Stream	Main stem and unnamed tributary	Brown mudfish
Waiaua Stream	Waiaua Stream tributary	Banded kokopu, Inanga, Longfin eels
Waihi Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels
Waimoku Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Inanga
Waingongoro River	Main stem, Mangatoki Stm, Tuikonga Stm, unnamed forest pool	Brown mudfish, Lamprey, Longfin eels
Waiongana Stream	Main stem, Araheke Stm tributary, Awai Stm, Mangaoraka Stream, Waionganaiti Stm	Banded kokopu, Inanga, Lamprey, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Waipapa Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Longfin eels
Wairau Stream	Main stem	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Inanga, Koaro, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Waitaha Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels
Waitara River	Includes main stem, Hitoki, Kaitawanui, Kurapete, Makara, Maketawa, Mako & Mangamawhete streams, Manganui River, Mangaoapa, Mangaotea, Mangapotoa, Mangatengehu, Mangawhio, Mangamawhete, Matau, Ngatoro, Ngatoro-iti, Ngatoro-nui, Piakau, Taramoukou, Te Popo, Waipuku, & Waitepuke streams	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Inanga, Koaro, Lamprey, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Waitotara River	Lake Mangawhio, Mangawhio Stm, Waiau Stm	Banded kokopu, Inanga, Longfin eels
Waitotaroa Stream	Waitotaroa Stream tributary	Banded kokopu
Waiweranui Stream	Main stem	Lamprey, Longfin eels
Waiwhakaiho River	Includes main stem, Araheke Stm, Kai Auahi Stm, Korito Stm, Mangamahoe Stm, Manganaha Stm, Mangaone Stm, Mangaotukutuku Stm, Mangawarawara Stm, Mangorei Stm, Taruawakanga Stm, unnamed wetland	Banded kokopu, Giant kokopu, Koaro, Inanga, Lamprey, Longfin eels, Short jawed kokopu
Warea River	Main stem, Warea River tributary	Banded kokopu, Brown mudfish, Longfin eels
Whenuariki Stream	Main stem	Longfin eels

<sup>(1)</sup> The estimated extent of the native fisheries habitat depends upon the species. For brown mudfish, it is the extent of the wetland in which they were recorded. For lamprey and long finned eels it is the entire stream. For other species, the extent is based upon an altitude band, or the loss of riparian vegetation, whichever comes first. Potential habitat for inanga, and banded and giant kokopu is <200m above sea level. Potential habitat for koaro and shortjaw kokopu is >200m above sea level. <sup>23</sup>

<sup>(2)</sup> The species listed may not necessarily be present throughout the main stem, or all tributaries, of particular rivers or lakes listed.

<sup>23</sup> Methodology outlined in Taranaki Regional Council, unpublished reports. Document numbers: 1233336, 1233324 and 1220214.

## 5.6 CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL, HISTORICAL AND TRADITIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Tangata whenua have special cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional associations with freshwater. They have maintained a special relationship through their obligations under kaitiakitanga.

Wahi tapu, sites or places of cultural significance, taonga and customary resources, including mahinga kai, are integral to the identity, well-being and cultural integrity of tangata whenua

In relation to freshwater bodies the following cultural, spiritual and traditional associations are particularly important:

Wahi tapu –sacred place<sup>24</sup>

Wai tapu – sacred waters used for ceremonial and healing purposes

Tauranga waka – canoe landing place

Mahinga kai – the gathering of food and natural material, the food, resources and the places where they were gathered

Urupa – burial ground

Mataitai reef – kaimoana reef

Pa – fortified village

Pa tuna – eel weir

Pa piharau – lamprey weir.

The Council must have regard to statutory acknowledgement areas in accordance with sections 93 to 94C of the RMA. Statutory acknowledgements, amongst other things, identify places and areas of special spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to iwi and may include freshwater bodies.

Freshwater bodies so far identified in statutory acknowledgements and therefore known to be regionally significant for their cultural, spiritual and historical associations to tangata whenua are identified in Table 6 overleaf.<sup>25</sup>

Seven of the eight iwi o Taranaki have settled, or are close to settling, historical Treaty of Waitangi claims with the Crown that include statutory acknowledgement areas. Not mentioned in the study is Ngati Maru who has just started to engage with the Crown on a Treaty Settlement.

Of note Table 6 is not an exhaustive list of freshwater bodies with significant cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional associations. It is likely that there are other but as yet undocumented sites of importance known only to iwi, hapu or whanau. Additional sites will be incorporated into the proposed Plan policy framework that recognise and provide for those values.

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<sup>24</sup> In relation to other wāhi tapu, district councils have particular responsibilities for managing the effects of the use, development and protection of land.

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<sup>25</sup> Through early discussions and hui, as part of the Freshwater Plan review process, the eight iwi o Taranaki gave broad support to using statutory acknowledgements as a starting point for identifying sites of significance for tangata whenua (and as triggers for when resource consent applicants should consult with tangata whenua) and including a method in a revised Plan to ensure that the identification of additional sites of significance are addressed over the life of the proposed Plan.

**Table 6:** Water bodies of known regional significance for their cultural, spiritual and historical associations

Water body	Rohe	Sites of interest	Commentary	Values
Hangatahua (Stony)	Taranaki Iwi		The eponymous ancestor Rua Taranaki settled on the banks of this river	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, tauranga waka
Huatoki Stream	Te Atiawa		In times past the stream was important for its running water source, mahinga kai, flax, raupo & timber. Today the Huatoki retains its historic, cultural & traditional value to Te Atiawa & Ngati Te Whiti hapu. The stream was so named after the abundance of Titoki trees that grew along its banks.	Wai tapu, tauranga waka, mahinga kai, pa, wahi tapu
Kapuni Stream	Ngāruahine		The stream marks the boundary between the takiwa of Ngati Manuhiakai & Ngati Tu hapu. The hapu have cultural, spiritual, traditional & historic associations with the river and associated land, flora and fauna. The river was abundant with tunaheke, piharau, kahawai, inanga pakotea & kokopu.	Mahinga kai, pa tuna, pa, wahi tapu
Kaupokonui Stream	Ngāruahine		This stream was named by Turi, the captain of the Aotea waka, who also named the flat land adjacent Maraekura where a special ceremony representing the mana of Turi was performed. Hence this awa has great cultural & spiritual importance for Ngati Tu hapu. Like other awa within the rohe of Ngāruahine this stream was abundant with tunaheke, piharau, kahawai, inanga, pakotea & kokopu.	Wahi tapu, pa
Manawapou River	Ngati Ruanui		Fish such as the piharau, kokopu, tunaheke, patiki & shellfish were abundant in the waters & on the reefs at the mouth of the river.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, pa
Mimi River	Ngati Mutunga	Mimi-Papahutiwai, Omihi, Arapawanui, Oropapa, Pukekohe, Toki-kinikini & Tupari	The full name of the river is Mimitangiata. The river and associated huhui (swampy valleys), ngahere (large swamps) & repo (muddy swamps) were used by Ngati Mutunga to preserve taonga. Pipi, pupu (cats eyes), tio (oysters), & patiki were found in abundance at the mouth of the river with inanga being caught all along its banks. To the people of Ngati Mutunga all the rivers & their respective valleys are of the utmost importance because of their spiritual, physical & social significance in the past, present and future.	Mahinga kai, wai tapu, pa, tauranga waka, wahi tapu
Mohakatino River	Ngati Tama		This river is significant to Ngati Tama as it was here where the Tokomaru waka landed. The river was abundant with tuna, inanga & mataitai, especially kutae was gathered at the mouth & surrounding reefs.	Mahinga kai, tauranga waka, wai tapu
Onaero River	Te Atiawa		For Te Atiawa part of this awa flows through the rohe of Ngati Rahiri hapu.	Mahinga kai, wai tapu
	Ngati Mutunga		Ngati Mutunga utilised the entire length of the Onaero River for food gathering. The mouth of the river provided pipi, pupu, patiki, kahawai, and other fish. Inanga were caught along the banks of the river. Tuna & piharau were caught in the upper reaches of the river. Piharau were caught using whakaparu, which was a technique developed by placing rarauhe (bracken fern) in the rapids of the river in times of flood. The river was used for other purposes such as bathing when sick & baptising babies. The Onaero River & its banks have been occupied by the ancestors of Ngati Mutunga since before the arrival of the Tokomaru & Tahatuna waka. It has always been an integral part of the social, spiritual & physical lifestyle of the Ngati Mutunga people.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, pa piharau, tauranga waka, wai tapu
Otakeho Stream	Ngāruahine		To be confirmed	
Papatiki Stream	Ngati Tama		To be confirmed	Mahinga kai

Water body	Rohe	Sites of interest	Commentary	Values
Patea River	Ngati Ruanui		The full name of this river is Patea-nui-a-Turi given by Turi when he arrived after his journey overland after leaving the waka Aotea at Kawhia. After claiming the river Turi traversed the length of the river reciting karakia to its source on maunga Taranaki. This place he named Whakapou Karakia. Like the other surrounding rivers, fish species were abundant in the waters & the reefs around the river mouth. It should be noted that this river marks the north-western most point of interest for the iwi of Ngaa Rauru.	Wahi tapu, mahinga kai, pa, wai tapu
	Ngaa Rauru		Known by Ngaa Rauru Kiiitahi as Te Awanui o Taikehu. Along its banks resided the hapu of Rangitaawhi, Pukorokoro, Ngaati Hine, Kairakau, Ngaati Maika & Manaia. The many pa & kainga situated there included Tutumahoe Pa & kainga, Parikarangeranga & Wai-o-Turi Marae (where Turi the commander of the Aotea waka came ashore to drink from a spring/puna hence the name). Ngaa Rauru Kiiitahi used the entire length for food gathering. Sources of food included kakahi (freshwater mussel) tuna, whitebait, smelt, flounder & sole.	Pa, mahinga kai, wahi tapu
Tangahoe River	Ngati Ruanui		It is said that the name Tangaahoe was given to the river as a result of an incident that occurred, whereby the steering oar was lost from a large deep sea fishing waka as it attempted to return to the tauranga waka. The comment was made that if there were two steering oars like that of the waka tipua of Turi then its passage to the tauranga waka would remain true. The Tangahoe River has been a major supply of food & water resources to its people both prior to and since the arrival of the Aotea waka. Fish such as the piharau, kokopu, tunaheke, patiki, and shellfish were abundant in the waters and on the reefs at the mouth of the river.	Pa, mahinga kai, mataitai reefs, tauranga waka, wahi tapu
Taungatara Stream	Ngāruahine		This stream marks the northern boundary for Ngāruahine and the hapu Ngati Tamaahuroa–Titahi. The hapu are descendants of the people who landed at Oeo on the waka captained by Whiro in the fourteenth century and also of the waka Aotea captained by Turi as well as a common ancestry with Taranaki Iwi. This stream also had an abundance of fish species resources including tunaheke, piharau, kahawai, inanga, pakotea, & kokopu.	Mahinga kai, pa, wahi tapu
Te Henui Stream	Te Atiawa	Autere, Purakau, Kerau, Pukewarangi, Puketarata, & Parihamore	The Te Henui is in the rohe of Ngati te Whiti hapu. Te Henui means huge mistake & refers to an incident which is no longer remembered. The river was important because of its abundant resources which sustained the needs of Papakainga & communities along its banks. Fish & kaimoana were collected from the river & nearby reefs.	Mahinga kai, mataitai reefs, pa, wahi tapu, tauranga waka
Tongaporutu River	Ngati Tama		A significant river for Ngati Tama with a number of pa sites situated along its banks. This river was abundant with fish & mataitai & sustained the needs of the communities along its banks.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, tauranga waka
Urenui River	Ngati Mutunga	Pihanga, Pohokura, Maruehi, Urenui, Okoki, Pukewhakamaru & Tutu-manuka	The name derives from Tu-Urenui, the son of Manaia who commanded the Tahatuna waka that landed there. The entire river length was used for food gathering with the river mouth providing kutae, pipi, pupu, patiki, kahawai & inanga. Tuna & piharau were caught in the upper reaches. Like the Onaero River, this river was used for healing the sick & baptising babies. The Urenui River has always been an integral part of the social, spiritual & physical lifestyle of Ngati Mutunga.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, wai tapu, tauranga waka
Waiuu Stream	Te Atiawa & Ngati Mutunga	Te Rau o Te Huia	The Waiuu is located north of Waitara & springs from the land & flows into the Tasman Sea. It marks the boundary Te Atiawa & Ngati Mutunga.	Wahi tapu

Water body	Rohe	Sites of interest	Commentary	Values
Waingongoro River	Ngāruahine & Ngati Ruanui	Kanihi, Te Rangatapu	The river was named by Turi the commander of the Aotea Utanganui waka as he travelled south with his wife Rongorongo & his people. The Kanihi-Umutahi & Okahu-Inuawai hapu who have historically resided on the western & eastern banks of the Waingongoro River are descendants from the tangata whenua tribes that landed at Te Rangatapu on the Te Rangiuamutu waka captained by Tamatea-Rokai & also from the Aotea Utanganui waka. This river also had an abundance of fish species resources including tunaheke, piharau, inanga, pakotea & kokopu.	Mahinga kai, pa tuna, pa piharau, wahi tapu, pa
Waiongana Stream	Te Atiawa		The Waiongana flows from Taranaki Maunga to the Tasman Sea & is in the rohe of Puketapu hapu. Fish & kaimoana were gathered at the mouth of the river & nearby reefs. Inanga is harvested along its banks.	Mahinga kai, mataitai reefs, wahi tapu
Waitara River	Te Atiawa	Aorangi, Pukekohe, Manukorihi, Pukerangiara, Ngangana	The river takes its name from Te Whaitara-nui-a-Wharematangi-i-te-kimi-i-tana-matua-i-a-Ngarue. The river flows through the rohe of Manukorihi, Otaraua, Pukerangiara & Ngati Rahiri hapu. The Waitara river mouth was one of the first areas to be settled in Aotearoa & life was sustained there by the abundant resources provided by the reefs & wetlands. There were many kainga & tauranga waka with one of the streams, Mangahinau, being the mooring site for the largest Te Atiawa war waka, Eanganui. The river continues to be an important resource for mahinga kai particularly tuna piharau, kahawai, flounder, yellow eyed mullet & herrings.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, pa, tauranga waka, pa piharau
	Ngati Mutunga Ngati Maru - Wharanui		For Ngati Mutunga the river marks the boundary between them and Ngati Maru-Wharanui.	
Waitotara River	Ngaa Rauru	Moumahakai Lake Conservation Area	The Waitotara is the life force that sustains Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi. Many hapu are located along its length, they include Ngaa Ariki, Ngaati Pourua, Ngaati Hine Waiatarua, Ngaati Hou Tipua & is known as Te Pu o te Wheke (head of the octopus) or the Ngaa Rauru headquarters. The entire length of the river was used to gather food including kakahi, tuna, whitebait, smelt, flounder & sole. The river was also utilised as means of transport.	Mahinga kai, wai tapu, pa tuna
Waiwhakaiho	Te Atiawa	Rewarewa, Raiomiti, Te Ngaere, Pukemapo, Te Rerenga, Pukeotepua and Papamoa	The Waiwhakaiho flows from Maunga Taranaki & has several tributaries including the Mangaone & Mangorei. The river marked the boundaries between rohe of Puketapu hapu, Ngati Tawhirikura & Ngati te Whiti hapu. This river was very important because of the abundant resources such as raupo, ferns, berries, birds, fish, flax & kaimoana. The river fish and whitebait were caught from particular purpose built sites called whakaparu and these remain & continue to be used today. The river was also used as a means to transport food & taonga & maintain whanaungatanga. The river continues to be an integral part of the social, spiritual & physical fabric of Te Atiawa & is celebrated in karakia, waiata & pepeha.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, pa piharau, pa
Whenuakura River	Ngati Ruanui	Includes main stem, Tapuarau Conservation Area	The name of this river originated from the time of Turi & his family living between the two rivers, Patea –nui- a Turi & the Whenuakura. Turi was the Ariki (Rangatira of highest rank) of the Aotea waka “Whenuakura: the land belonging to the people of high rank”. The river provided the people with all the resources of life they required to survive. This river marks the southern most point of interest for Ngati Ruanui.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, urupa
	Ngaa Rauru		The river is known by Ngaa Rauru Kiitahi as Te Aarei o Rauru. The entire length of Te Aarei o Rauru was used for food gathering. Sources of food included tuna, inanga, smelt, flounder & sole. The area along the river is known as Paamatangi & Ngaati Hine Waiata is the main hapuu. There are many urupa & wahi tapu sites situated along Te Aarei o Rauru.	Mahinga kai, wahi tapu, urupa



Water body	Rohe	Sites of interest	Commentary	Values
Herekawe Stream Te Henui Stream Huatoki Stream Mangorei Stream Mangamahoe Stream Waiwhakaiho River Waiongana River Ngātoro Stream Ngātoronui Stream Piakau Stream Little Maketawa Stream Maketawa Stream Mangamawhete Stream Waipuku Stream Waireka Stream Okurukuru Stream Tapuae Stream Ōākura River Wairau Stream Waimoku Stream Ōtūpoto Stream Whenuariki Stream Timaru Stream Pitone Stream Waiaua Stream Hurumangu Stream Katikara Stream Maitahi Stream Waikoukou Stream Kaihihi Stream Hangatāhua (Stoney) River Werekino Stream Matanehunehu Stream Waiorongomai Stream Pūremunui Stream Waiweranui Stream Te Ikaparua (Warea) River Kapoaiaia Stream	Taranaki Iwi		<p>The rivers and tributaries that bound and flow through the Taranaki Iwi rohe are of high importance to Taranaki Iwi, as many of them flow directly from Taranaki Maunga. These waters contain adjacent kainga, pa, important sites for food gathering of kai, tauranga ika (fishing areas) and mouri kōhatu (stones imbued with spiritual significance). The importance of these waterways reinforces the Taranaki Iwi tribal identity and provides a continuous connection between those ancestors that occupied and utilised these areas and their many deeds.</p> <p>Waterways, rivers and streams within the Taranaki Iwi rohe were and continue to be vital to the well being, livelihood and lifestyle of Taranaki Iwi communities. As kaitiaki Taranaki Iwi closely monitored their health and water quality to ensure there was an abundant source of food, materials and other resources to sustain their livelihoods. A diverse range of food sources such as piharau (lamprey eel), tuna, kokopu (native trout), inanga (whitebait), Kōaro (small spotted freshwater fish), and koura (freshwater crayfish), were staple harvest with large numbers of kahawai and patiki (flounder) also caught on the river mouths along the Taranaki Iwi coastline. Although access to many of the age old fishing spots for the piharau has become a challenge, many are still caught in the months of June, July and August by Taranaki Iwi families.</p> <p>Relatively high rainfall up on the mountain quickly drains through these river systems contributing to high water flows and the swift clearance of excessive sedimentation. This has resulted in clean clear water accessible to generations of Taranaki Iwi. The river courses, waterfalls and pools were also ceremonial sites used for baptism and other forms of consecration including tohi (child dedication ceremony), pure (tapu removal ceremony) and hahunga (exhumation ceremony). The practice of hahunga involved the scrapping and cleansing of bones and then they were painted with kōkōwai (red ochre), wrapped and interred in caves, some of these were on the banks of rivers while others were high up on the mountain. The natural resources along the edges of the rivers and large swamp systems commonly provided materials for everyday community life, waka, housing, construction, medicine, food and clothing. Large deposits of kōkōwai were also abundant in the river beds higher up on the mountain. Te Ahititi was a famous kōkōwai deposit located along the banks of the Hangatāhua River with other known sites on the Kaitake range and the Waiwhakaiho River valley above Karakatonga Pā. These sites were fiercely guarded by Taranaki Iwi.</p> <p>The waterways within the Taranaki Iwi rohe also traditionally provided the best access routes to inland cultivations and village sites further up on the mountain and the ranges. Some of these routes became celebrated and were conferred names that confirmed the importance of the places they led to. Te Arakaipaka was a route that followed the Pitoone, Timaru and Waiorehu streams up onto the various sites on the Kaitake and Pouakai ranges. Tararua was another route that followed the Whenuariki stream to Te Iringa, Pirongia, Pukeiti and Te Kōhatu on the Kaitake range. The Hangatāhua River was also a key route up onto the Ahukawakawa swamp. The Kapoiaia River also provided a pathway for Taranaki Iwi hapū Ngāti Haupoto. This began at Pukehāmoamo (close to Cape lighthouse) and went to Te Umupua, Orokotehe, Te Ahitahutahu, Ongaonga and onto Ahukawakawa swamp where a whare was situated. The Okahu River was another well known route to Te Apiti and onto Te Maru, a fortified pa high up on Taranaki Maunga. Te Maru Pā had extensive cultivations and satellite kainga before it was attacked by Ngāpuhi and Waikato war parties in the early 1800s.</p>	

Water body	Rohe	Sites of interest	Commentary	Values
Otahi Stream Waitotoroa Stream Waitaha Stream Pungaereere Stream Okahu Stream Manganui Stream Ōtūwhenua Stream Tangihāpū Stream Moutoti Stream Ōaoiti Stream Ōaonui Stream Arawhata Stream Ōkawe Stream Heimama Stream Otahi Stream Hihiwera Stream Waiaua River Mangahume Stream Waiteika Stream Taungātara Stream Pūnehu Stream Ōuri Stream Ōeo Stream Wahamoko Stream Rāwa o Turi Stream	Taranaki Iwi		<p>The Waitotoroa River takes its name from the siege of Te Maru Pā by Waikato and Ngāpuhi in 1820. Taranaki Iwi suffered significant loss of life during the siege and many Taranaki Iwi people were taken away by Waikato and Ngāpuhi as slaves. The name commemorates both this event and the large number of people who perished as a result. The river is also of extreme importance to Taranaki Iwi and the community of Parihaka as it runs through the heart of Parihaka Pā and is often quoted and referenced in many Parihaka and Taranaki Iwi waiata and whakataukitanga korero.</p> <p>Taniwha also protected many of the rivers and waterways along the Taranaki Iwi coast. Te Rongorangiataiki was resident along the Ōākura River along with the famed taniwha Tuiāu of Matanehunehu, who was said to have caused a fishing tragedy at Mokotunu in the late 1800s. There was also Te Haiata, the taniwha who resided at Ngauhe, and Kaiāho on the Pungaereere and Ōāoiti streams. He would move from these two places from time to time to protect the people and the rivers. Taniwha are still revered by many Taranaki Iwi families and form the basis of tikanga (practices) for which the sustainable harvesting and gathering of food for Taranaki Iwi continues today.</p>	



Julian's Pond, southeast of Opunake has a range of native species, including nationally threatened plants

## 5.7 REPRESENTATIVE ECOLOGICAL VALUES OF WETLANDS

Wetlands such as swamps, marshes and bogs are the meeting ground of land and freshwater. They are some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world and support and provide habitat for a huge variety of life, including many rare and threatened species. An important characteristic of wetlands is that they filter out nutrients and sediment from farm run-off. This is important in controlling water flow and improving water quality.

The NPSFM, in addition to seeking the protection of outstanding freshwater bodies, contains objectives and policies requiring that adverse effects on the significant values of wetlands to be avoided. Wetlands have on occasion been identified in sections 5.1 to 5.6 of this report. However, they also are a value in themselves due to their relative rarity, ecological importance, and ongoing threats to their extent.

Since the time of human settlement of New Zealand, much of the region's original wetland area has disappeared. Estimates are that as of 2007, only about 10.1% of New Zealand's original wetland remains – less than 5% throughout the North Island. In Taranaki, about

8.1% or 3,291 hectares of wetland habitat remains.

Between 2001 and 2007, an estimated 121 hectares of wetland in the region was lost. However, between 2007 and 2012, only 42 hectares or 1.3% of our total wetland areas was lost – a 60% reduction in the annual rate of loss to wetland area. The greatest loss occurred in areas of palustrine wetland, covered with rushes and sedges, which are the most common wetland in the region.

The current Freshwater Plan included rules protecting 60 wetlands scheduled in the Plan as being regionally significant plus had other 'discretionary activity' rules requiring a resource consent to drain other wetlands over five hectares. As part of the review of the Freshwater Plan it is proposed to broaden that approach to target the protection of all wetlands in Taranaki (in accordance with a descriptive schedule that outlines wetland habitat types determined to be regionally significant).<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> For further information on the Council's proposed approach for wetlands, refer to Taranaki Regional Council, 2013A: 'Maintaining Indigenous Biodiversity in the Taranaki Region'.



**Lake Rotomanu, a regionally significant wetland**

## 6. Summary and recommendations

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In conclusion, and as stated in the NPSFM implementation guide “...an outstanding waterbody is one that is exceptional in some way. It may be exceptional in relation to one particular attribute but it may also have a number of outstanding attributes. An outstanding value is a high threshold. There are expected to be a small number of outstanding freshwater bodies identified and protected by regional councils across the country.”

The ‘outstanding’ threshold should be up and around that of a water conservation order. Of the water bodies examined in this report, three clearly have attributes or features that are exceptional or outstanding in some way. These are:

- Hangatahua (Stony) River
- Lake Rotokare
- Maketawa and Ngatoro streams.

It is recommended that a revised Freshwater Plan be prepared identifying these water bodies to be ‘outstanding freshwater bodies’. Adverse effects on the quality and values of the outstanding freshwater body must then be avoided. For one of the catchments – the Maketawa Stream – it is noted that there are a small number of treated discharges to water that may need to be diverted to land in the future.

Another water body – the upper Manganui catchment – has attributes and values that are ranked very high but the overall ranking did not meet the ‘outstanding’ criterion. However, given the subjectivity inherent in landscape assessments this conclusion should be tested through the public review process for the Freshwater Plan.

Although not rated ‘outstanding’, 77 catchments were identified as having regionally important natural character, features, and/or amenity, recreational, fishery, ecological, cultural or historical values. Some of these values may apply to the whole catchment while others

would be limited to particular water bodies, reaches or sites.

**Appendix IV** presents a summary of the attributes and values associated with freshwater bodies identified to be outstanding or significant.

The current Freshwater Plan already contains a policy that seeks that the high natural, ecological and amenity values of those rivers and streams be maintained and enhanced as far as practicable, with adverse effects of activities being avoided as far as practicable, or remedied or mitigated. However, as part of the review of the Freshwater Plan, it is proposed that the current broad approach of ‘maintenance and enhancement’ be further refined, and specific policy be developed in a revised Freshwater Plan for managing specific freshwater values.

The proposed approach will provide greater direction and certainty through reflecting the different management approaches needed for each value in ensuring that they are maintained and enhanced. This approach will also enable effect to be given to the RPS which contains some specific directions for some of the values.

It is further recommended that high value water bodies be identified within separate schedules (instead of one schedule) according to each value identified. Adverse effects associated with use and development can then be managed through regional rules and the consenting process to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of those instream values.

Of note, the report’s findings and recommendations may have implications for district councils in that freshwater bodies identified as having outstanding or regionally significant values will likely become part of their consideration when determining how their district plans will protect outstanding natural character, features and landscapes in accordance with section 6(b) of the RMA.



Angling at the footsteps of Mount Taranaki

## Appendix I: Stakeholder feedback on draft report

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Set out overleaf are copies of feedback received from key stakeholders following targeted consultation on the draft report *Freshwater bodies of outstanding or significant value in the Taranaki region*.

## Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

**From:** Simon Collins [mailto:simon@rotokare.org.nz]

**Sent:** Thursday, 17 September 2015 11:33 AM

**To:** Chris Spurdle

**Cc:** Ellen Squire

**Subject:** Re: Freshwater Bodies of Outstanding or Significant Value in the Taranaki Region

Good morning Chris and Ellen,

Thank you for offering us the opportunity to comment on this draft report.

We are naturally thrilled with the assessment ranking so highly, and agree it is of significant value and importance regionally and nationally.

Comments:

- It is perhaps worth noting that Lake Rotokare is the 'largest wetland and lake habitat within a fenced sanctuary in NZ'.....?
- Small 'typo' in caption below photograph on page 27 '....the efforts of a local community work'.
- As banded kokapu are mentioned, it is perhaps also worth mentioning the presence of both short and long-finned eel, and indeed koura ...?

Kind regards,

**Simon Collins**

**Sanctuary Manager**

**Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust**

**06 764 8500**

**021 1322 205**





## Taranaki Fish and Game Council

File Ref: 2.3.5  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

Chris Spurdle  
Planning Manager  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
STRATFORD

Dear Chris

### **Freshwater bodies of outstanding or significant value in the Taranaki region**

Thank you for seeking Fish & Game's feedback on this document. This is very much appreciated and we offer the following comments:

#### **4.1 OFB 1 Hangatahua (Stony) River**

The retention of the Hangatahua (Stony) River as an outstanding freshwater body is supported. There is no doubt that this river is unique in Taranaki and worthy of protection as far as possible in its natural state.

#### **4.3 OFB 3 Maketawa and Ngatoro Streams**

Fish & Game also supports the listing of Maketawa and Ngatoro Streams as an outstanding freshwater body. We acknowledge and support the re-inclusion of the Ngatoro Stream component to reflect the existing Freshwater Plan Policy 6.1.1 definition of the Maketawa Stream and RPS WAL METH 4.

In the evaluation table (p33) it is noted that:

- Under Sensory/Naturalness bullet point 4; that there will currently be more than seven consented discharges to water (Ngatoro component not included). However, we don't see this as an impediment to managing the Maketawa Stream catchment as an outstanding freshwater body;
- Under Associative/Shared and recognised values bullet point one; it should be "high-quality flyfishing for brown trout", as there are few rainbows in the catchment.

#### **4.4 OFB 4 Upper Manganui River**

Fish & Game continues to have a strongly held view that the upper Manganui River does have sufficient values to warrant scheduling and management as an outstanding freshwater body. We also consider that there is a strong policy requirement via RPS WAL METH 4 and FW Plan Policy 6.1.1 to protect the natural character and instream values of the upper Manganui River as far as possible in their natural state (as detailed in our earlier comments on the draft FW Plan). To give effect to this requirement essentially means managing the reach as an OFB in FMU A.

On page 8 (last para) of the discussion document, it is stated that *"The RPS explicitly identifies two rivers and one lake as being outstanding in their natural values, features and landscapes, these are: the Hangatahua (Stony) River, Maketawa Stream and Lake Rotokare"*. However, the relevant section in the RPS (Section 10.1 para 5) states *"A number of Taranaki rivers and lakes and their margins (eg the Hangatahua (Stony) River, Maketawa Stream and Lake Rotokare) are also considered to be outstanding in terms of their natural values, features and landscapes."* Clearly, these three were simply used as examples in the RPS and they are not an exclusive list.

In the headwaters of the Manganui River, the Manganui gorge is undoubtedly an outstanding natural feature in a similar way to the Stony River headwaters - and viewed and enjoyed by the thousands of people each year using the Manganui ski-field walking track.

As indicated in the assessment (p36) and in Table 1 below in respect of MCI, owing to the entrenched nature of the river, riparian vegetation and water quality in the upper Manganui is at least as good as in the Stony River and Maketawa Stream.

Any issues with fish passage have/are being addressed, with TrustPower spending \$150,000 on a state-of-the-art fish pass in 2002 which has resulted in key indicator species of redfin bully, inanga and shortjawed kokopu being present upstream. It's envisaged that in the near future KiwiRail will also fit a fish pass to the railway bridge bed control structure on the upper Manganui River just upstream of SH3.

The upper Manganui River also provides important habitat for Whio/Blue Duck, with birds present on the river downstream of SH3 and well outside Egmont National Park (Dean Caskey, pers com.), which is unique and indicates the exceptional nature of the river.

In terms of the trout fishery, the upper Manganui is outstanding in a Taranaki context, with brown trout regularly exceeding 2kg and sometimes 3kg (three photos shown below, but I can provide a power point slide-show of photos provided by anglers). Anglers regularly describe the water quality, fishery and scenic values of the reach as outstanding and that once in the river channel they can easily imagine they are in a wilderness area.

In terms of the commentary and evaluation in Section 4.4 of the discussion document, there are number of references to the TrustPower weir and the river downstream, and Te Popo Stream, which should not form part of the evaluation. The photo of Mangamawhete Stream relates to a downstream tributary that is not in the reach being evaluated.

We are happy to engage in further discussions with the TRC about the status of the upper Manganui River and provide additional information as necessary.

### **5.1 Natural Character, Aesthetic and Scenic values**

It's not clear whether the 21 identified rivers are intended to be included in a separate schedule or not. If so, then we would like to have further comment on this list.

### **5.2 Contact Recreation**

The Hangatahua (Stony) River should be added into the list in Table 2, with popular swimming sites being at SH45 and along the Stony River walkway. The photo (p41) might well have been taken along the walkway.

Additional popular swimming sites in the Waiwhakaiho River include the "power house pool" at Burgess Park/Meeting of the Waters Scenic Reserve and along the track at the right hand end of Rimu Street extension, where there is a high bank people use for jumping into a deep pool.

### **5.3 Recreational Fisheries (Trout and Whitebaiting)**

Table 3, including the waters listed in column 2 (as well as 1) looks to be correct for waters with significant trout fishery values.

### **5.4 Trout and Inanga Spawning**

The comments in this section in relation to trout spawning are endorsed. Table 4 is also endorsed in respect of trout spawning with the following additions and deletions:

- Add "Cold Creek" to column 2 adjacent to Taungatara Stream;
- Delete "Opunake Lake" from column 2 adjacent to Waiaua River;
- Add "Climie Stream" to column 2 adjacent to Waingongoro River;
- Add "Awai Stream" to column 2 adjacent to Waiongana Stream;
- Add "Mangamahoe Stream" to column 2 adjacent to Waiwhakaiho River.

## **6. Summary and Recommendations**

As is noted above we still wish to see the upper Manganui River added to the list of outstanding freshwater bodies.

There are a number of omissions from the summary Table in Appendix III, but in any case we support the recommendation (last para p55) that high value water bodies be identified in separate schedules within the Freshwater Plan according to each value identified.

Allen Stancliff  
Fish & Game Officer  
Fish & Game NZ



PHOTO 1: Manganui Gorge



PHOTO 2 Manganui gorge



PHOTO 3. Upper Manganui brown trout 2.4kg



PHOTO 4. Upper Manganui brown trout 3.4kg



PHOTO 5. Upper Manganui River brown trout 2.4kg



PHOTO 6. Upper Manganui River

**TABLE 1.** Summary of Macroinvertebrate Community Indices for sites the upper Manganui, Maketawa and Hangatahua (Stony) Rivers (TRC data)

River	Site	Altitude (m)	Distance from ENP (km)	MCI (median)	MCI (range)	MCI (Nov 2013)	MCI (Feb 2014)	SQMCI (Nov 2013)	SQMCI (Feb 2014)
Manganui	SH3	330	8.7	126	113 -143	130	131	7.2	7.7
Maketawa	Derby Rd.	380	2.3	128	100 -141	136	121	7.3	7.1
Stony	Mangatete Rd.	160	7.3	113	64 -160	111	119	7.7	7.9





30 October 2015

Attn: Chris Spurdle  
Planning Manager  
Taranaki Regional Council  
Private Bag 713  
Stratford 4352

**Freshwater bodies of outstanding or significant value in the Taranaki region:  
Review of the Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki (Draft Report)**

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Conservation to provide comments on the draft report on freshwater bodies of outstanding or significant value in the Taranaki region, and for the extension of time to provide these comments.

The Department recognises the significant ongoing work that the Taranaki Regional Council has put into the review of the freshwater plan, and the Department appreciates the ongoing opportunities to provide comments as part of the review.

In its review of the report, the Department has focussed on:

- The identification of candidate waterbodies; and
- The criteria that have been adopted for assessment of candidate waterbodies, in particular the biophysical criteria

Comments on each of these are provided below.

*Identification of candidate waterbodies*

The Department understands from reading the report that the Council has gathered information for the assessment from a variety of sources, including previous work undertaken in association with the regional policy statement and the current freshwater plan.

While this is a good starting point, selection of candidate waterbodies needs to take account of the limitations of using waterbodies identified for different purposes. For example, while there is likely to be some overlap between outstanding natural features and outstanding waterbodies, they are not always going to be the same. Some values of

waterbodies would not be captured by the criteria for an outstanding natural feature (e.g. recreational values).

It is also noted that in a number of places, the report appears to focus on natural character – such as in section 3 and on pg 21 where it states ‘for an area to have outstanding natural character it must ...’ Natural character should not be the only consideration when looking at potential outstanding waterbodies.

### *Criteria*

The approach taken in the report appears to be that waterbodies can only be considered ‘outstanding’ if they score a 5 in all three categories - biophysical, associative and sensory. Also, within each of the three categories, a number of different matters are included, e.g. ‘shared and recognised values’ contains fishing, angling, recreational features, or scientific or educational features. It is unclear whether a waterbody that contains just one of these values (e.g. very high scientific value) is enough to be ranked as a ‘5’ on the scale of significance for that category, or whether the waterbody would need to have all of these values.

It is possible that a waterbody could be determined ‘outstanding’ because of a particular significant value. This appears to be suggested in the report at page 8 (waterbodies ‘that are exceptional in relation to one particular feature, or may have a number of outstanding features or values that should be protected’), however the assessment framework does not provide for this approach. Values do not necessarily overlap - for example a waterbody may have very high biophysical values, but not high associative values because perhaps it is remote or difficult to access.

Whilst allowing for this may result in more than just one or two outstanding waterbodies in the region, there would likely be only a small number that are exceptional for each value. The direction in the NPS-FM is to protect the *significant values* of outstanding waterbodies. Therefore, if a waterbody is outstanding for recreational reasons, then it would potentially be possible to use or develop the waterbody in such a way that provides for the protection of the recreational values (subject to other requirements in the plan).

The Department’s concern is that the current assessment framework may result in waterbodies with very high biophysical values not being identified as ‘outstanding’ due to the inability to score a ‘5’ in the other categories.

There has been a very high bar set for some of the values to meet ‘high’ significance (a score of 5). For example, for native aquatic flora and fauna (including habitats for threatened or regionally distinctive species), to score even a 3 there must be no known barriers for fish passage. There are a number of matters that should be clarified to aid interpretation, including whether the barriers must be ‘man-made’, and whether this applies to the whole waterbody, or just the reach in question. The Department does not agree that having a barrier to fish passage would necessarily result in a waterbody (or

parts of a waterbody) having less significant biodiversity, or habitat for native species, such that it could not be considered outstanding.

#### *Waterbodies with regionally significant values*

It would be helpful if further information could be provided on the process for identifying and assessing candidate waterbodies, as it is unclear whether there has been a structured approach to this.

With respect to the waterbodies that have been identified as 'regionally significant', it is not clear how these will be treated (policy/ management direction) in the Freshwater Plan. If the approach is taken to identify waterbodies as outstanding in relation to a particular value or set of values (as discussed above), then potentially a number of waterbodies currently listed as 'regionally significant', would become 'outstanding' in relation to those particular values. The Freshwater Plan would then need to include a policy framework for the management of these waterbodies in light of the direction in the NPS-FM. This appears to be suggested in the final two paragraphs of the 'summary and recommendations' on page 55 of the report.

#### *Other comments*

- We note the advice received (email dated 2 October 2015) regarding the relationship between regionally significant waterbodies identified in the draft report (Figure 7), and waterbodies with significant indigenous biodiversity values within the region. The Department is pleased to know that waterbodies with significant indigenous biodiversity values will not be limited to the list in the report (Table 5).
- We also note the Council's approach to avoid overlap between outstanding waterbodies and wetlands, by not specifically including wetlands within the outstanding waterbody category. The Department has previously made comments on this, and will consider its position following notification of the Freshwater Plan.

Please contact Rachel Penney (07) 858 1583 or [rpenney@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rpenney@doc.govt.nz) if you would like to discuss any matters within this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Berry  
Planning Manager  
Hamilton Shared Services

**Stratford District Council**

**From:** Liam Dagg [mailto:LDagg@stratford.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 October 2015 1:41 PM

**To:** Ellen Squire

**Cc:** Chris Spurdle

**Subject:** RE: Freshwater Bodies of Outstanding or Significant Value in the Taranaki Region

Ellen

Only 3 comments from us at this stage:

- It would be useful to give some indication as to which local authorities the freshwater bodies fall into
- While its appreciated the report is pointed at the regional planning instruments, some statement in the recommendations section on what role the district plans are expected to play would be useful. For example, is it envisaged that some restriction on subdivision may be imposed adjacent to or within the catchments of these areas? Are the nominated areas to be viewed as priority areas for esplanade strip acquisition etc? Probably doesn't have to be too detailed, but something pointing toward the fact the management of these areas will cascade down into district plans, not just the regional plans
- The methodology looks sound; we don't have the expertise or knowledge in-house to challenge the waterbodies that made the grade to those that didn't

cheers

**Liam Dagg** | Director Environmental Services | **Stratford District Council**

## Appendix II: River and stream catchments with high natural, ecological and amenity values

Set out below are the natural, ecological and amenity values of river and stream catchments as documented in the *Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki (2001)* and the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki (2010)*.

River or stream	Water quality	Recreational & fishery values	Aesthetic & scenic values	Comments <sup>27</sup>
Hangatahua (Stony) River	Excellent water quality throughout whole catchment. High clarity, low turbidity, very low nutrients. Macroinvertebrate community health excellent (average MCI 109-130)	Large river, access for fish to National Park. Very popular and highly valued angling river. High native fish diversity and presence of threatened species.	Upper and middle reaches very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 3500l/s at Mangatete Bridge. Steep gradients in upper and mid reaches with significant water movement and many rapids. Water quantity and movement contributes significantly to wild and scenic character. 39% total riparian cover, upper reaches mostly indigenous, middle reaches mixed vegetation, exotic trees and pasture, lower reaches barren or introduced grasses and weeds.
Huatoki Stream		Highly rated for recreational uses and values. Huatoki walkway.	Highly rated for scenic value. Adjacent parks and reserves.	Mixed vegetation including indigenous, in adjacent parks and reserves.
Kai Auai Stream	Excellent water quality throughout catchment. Slight turbidity.	Moderate access for native fish. Popular and very highly valued angling river.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Mixed vegetation, including indigenous.
Kapuni Stream	Excellent water quality in upper reaches above Opunake Rd (average MCI 135). Low turbidity. Good in middle reaches (average MCI for middle reaches above Skeet Road 94)	Access for native fish through most of river. Presence of threatened species. Highly valued angling river. Highly rated for recreational uses and values.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 1300l/s at SH45. Considerable water movement in upper reaches contributes to aesthetic and scenic value. 23% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation.
Katikara Stream		Moderate access for native fish. Important habitat for threatened species in upper reaches.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 600l/s* at river mouth. Steep gradient with noticeable water movement contributes to aesthetic and scenic values

<sup>27</sup> Median flow figures marked with an asterisk (\*) are estimates only

<i>River or stream</i>	<i>Water quality</i>	<i>Recreational &amp; fishery values</i>	<i>Aesthetic &amp; scenic values</i>	<i>Comments<sup>27</sup></i>
Kaupokonui Stream	Excellent to good water quality in upper reaches above Opunake Road. Average MCI 124.	Moderate access for native fish. Very popular and highly valued angling river. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values (important recreational area at mouth on South Taranaki coast).		31% total riparian cover, consisting of a mono-culture of exotic trees or pasture.
Maketawa Stream	Excellent to good water quality throughout whole catchment. High clarity, low nitrate and phosphorous.	Smaller river, good access for fish. Highly valued angling river. Important habitat for threatened native species.		Median flow of 1300l/s at SH3. Considerable water movement throughout the length of the stream. 59% total riparian cover, consisting of exotic trees, pasture and mixed vegetation.
Manawapou River		High recreational value for whitebaiting.		
Mangahume Stream		Important habitat for threatened native fish species.		
Manganui River	Excellent to good water quality throughout whole catchment. Low nutrients above SH3 and at the confluence with the Waitara River.	Moderate access for native fish. Presence of threatened species. Important for threatened native species. Very popular and highly valued angling river. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values (some swimming).	Very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 840l/s at SH3. Considerable water movement downstream from Everett Park with some Grade 2 and 3 rapids. Water quantity and flows contribute significantly to aesthetic and scenic values. 53% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation and exotic trees or pasture.
Mangaone Stream in the Waiwhakaiho River catchment		Tributary of the Waiwhakaiho in the lower catchment. Particularly high native fish diversity and presence of threatened species.		
Mangaoraka Stream		Small lowland stream with very good access. Highly valued trout stream. Very good access for native fish. Supports important Waiongana Stream whitebait fishery.		Median flow 1240l/s at Corbett Road. Low gradient, meandering stream. 54% total riparian cover.

<i>River or stream</i>	<i>Water quality</i>	<i>Recreational &amp; fishery values</i>	<i>Aesthetic &amp; scenic values</i>	<i>Comments<sup>27</sup></i>
Mangatoki Stream		Popular and valued angling river supporting trout stocks in the Waingongoro River system.		40% total riparian cover. Dense indigenous trees and scrub in upper reaches, pasture and exotic trees in lower reaches.
Mangawhero Stream in the Kaupokonui catchment	Good water quality. Presence of iron hydroxide gives milky appearance.	Valued angling river. Access for native fish through most of river.		Meandering stream with deep ponds in middle and low reaches. 31% total riparian cover (Kaupokonui catchment figure).
Mangorei Stream	Excellent to good water quality throughout whole catchment. High clarity and low nutrients.	Important habitats for native fish. Valued angling river. Supports trout stocks in the lower Waiwhakaiho River.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 1500l/s* at Burgess Park. Major tributary of the Waiwhakaiho River. Numerous pools occur. Important for maintaining water levels and flows in lower Waiwhakaiho River. 61% total riparian cover, mixed vegetation including indigenous vegetation.
Mimi River		Whitebaiting. Good diversity of native aquatic fauna including eels, whitebait, bullies and torrent fish.	Good scenic values, steep cliffs with puketea forest. High ecological values in upper reaches. Estuary considered to be an area of outstanding coastal value.	Retained native vegetation.
Mohakatino River		Good diversity of native aquatic fauna including eels, whitebait, bullies and torrent fish. Recreational uses (canoeing, whitebaiting).	High aesthetic and scenic values. High ecological values in upper reaches. Estuary considered to be an area of outstanding coastal value.	Native forest in upper reaches.
Ngatoro-nui Stream		Access for native fish through most of river. Important native fish values.		43% total riparian cover, consisting of mono-culture of exotic trees or pasture.
Oakura River	Excellent in upper reaches. Excellent to good in lower reaches. Very low nutrients and low turbidity.	Moderate access for native fish. Highly rated for recreational uses and values (particularly swimming and whitebaiting). Important habitat for threatened species in tributaries.	Very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 1650l/s at Surrey Hill Road. Very steep gradient with noticeable water movement. Swift current and pool and riffle pattern. 53% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation including some areas of indigenous vegetation.

<i>River or stream</i>	<i>Water quality</i>	<i>Recreational &amp; fishery values</i>	<i>Aesthetic &amp; scenic values</i>	<i>Comments<sup>27</sup></i>
Oaonui Stream		Access for native fish through most of river. Important native fish values.		
Okahu Stream		Smaller river, good access for native fish. Presence of threatened species. Valued small stream fishery.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	53% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation with some exotic trees and pasture.
Onaero River		Good diversity of native aquatic fauna including eels, whitebait, bullies and torrent fish and presence of threatened species. Recreational uses (camping, picnicking, whitebaiting).	Aesthetic and scenic values. Protected wetlands at headwaters.	Retained native vegetation in upper reaches.
Ouri Stream		High native fish diversity.		
Patea River	Excellent to good water quality in upper reaches above Cardiff Rd (average MCI 135).	Moderate access for native fish. Very popular and highly valued angling river. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 3200l/s at Skinner Road. Relatively steep gradient in ring plain reaches and numerous rapids ensures continuous water movement. 51% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation.
Tangahoe River		High recreational value for whitebaiting.		
Tapuae Stream		Access for native fish through most of the stream. Small stream trout fishery.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 1400l/s* at river mouth. Very steep gradient with noticeable water movement and numerous shingle rapids which contribute to its scenic appeal. 37% total riparian cover, mixed vegetation including indigenous vegetation.
Te Henui Stream		Moderate access for native fish and presence of threatened species. Highly valued angling river. Locally significant trout fishery. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 1200l/s* at river mouth. Significant water movement throughout the length of the stream which contributes to its high recreational and scenic value. 53% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation.



<i>River or stream</i>	<i>Water quality</i>	<i>Recreational &amp; fishery values</i>	<i>Aesthetic &amp; scenic values</i>	<i>Comments<sup>27</sup></i>
Timaru Stream	Excellent to good throughout whole catchment. Low nutrients and low turbidity.	Moderate access for native fish. Important for threatened native species in tributaries. Highly valued angling river. Locally significant whitebait fishery. Highly rated for recreational uses and values.	Very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 1100l/s at SH45. Steep gradient. Considerable current over shingle rapids enhances aesthetic and scenic values. 49% total riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation.
Tongaporutu River		Good diversity of native aquatic fauna including eels, whitebait, bullies and torrent fish and presence of threatened species. Recreational uses (canoeing, whitebaiting).	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values. Estuary considered to be an area of outstanding coastal value.	Water quantities and flows contribute significantly to high recreational, scenic and aesthetic values. Native forest in upper reaches.
Urenui River		High ecological values in upper reaches. Good diversity of native aquatic fauna including eels, whitebait, bullies and torrent fish. Recreational uses (whitebaiting)	Aesthetic and scenic values.	Retained native vegetation.
Waiaua River		Popular and valued angling river Largest angling river between the Hangatahua (Stony) River and Kaupokonui Stream.		
Waingongoro River	Excellent in upper reaches above Opunake Road. Good in middle and lower reaches (average MCI 124). MCI of between 90 and 120 in middle reaches above Skeet Road.	Moderate access for native fish. Very popular highly valued angling river. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 4940l/s at SH45 is one of the highest of ring plain rivers. Relatively low gradient with many pools and riffles. 31% riparian cover, consisting of mixed vegetation with some indigenous vegetation in places.

<i>River or stream</i>	<i>Water quality</i>	<i>Recreational &amp; fishery values</i>	<i>Aesthetic &amp; scenic values</i>	<i>Comments<sup>27</sup></i>
Waiongana Stream		Smaller river, good access for fish. Highly valued angling river. Highly rated for recreational uses and values (including whitebaiting).		Median flow of 2680l/s at Devon Road. Considerable water movement in upper reaches. Current slows considerably in lower reaches below Lepperton. 53% total riparian cover, consisting of mono-culture of exotic trees or pasture.
Waitara River (middle reaches – from confluence with Manganui River to Bertrand Road)		Large river, access for fish to National Park.	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 32300l/s at Bertrand Road. Noticeable water movement in some sections with numerous rapids but long, calm, flat sections in between. 35% total riparian cover, middle reaches consisting of mono-culture of exotic trees or pasture.
Waitara River (lower reaches – from Bertrand Road to river mouth)		Large river, access for fish to National Park. Whitebait congregating area. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values (canoeing).		Median flow of 34000l/s* at river mouth. River becomes flat and slow moving below Bertrand Rd bridge with some areas of shingle rapids. 35% total riparian cover, lower reaches consisting of barren or introduced grasses and weeds.
Waitotara River		High recreational value for whitebaiting.	Estuary listed in Coastal Plan as an area of outstanding coastal value.	
Waiweranui River		Access for native fish through most of river. Important native fish values.		Median flow of 900l/s* at river mouth.
Waiwhakaiho River (upper reaches – Egmont National Park to Lake Mangamahoe)	Excellent to good water quality MCI excellent to very good, average 130.	Access for native fish through most of river. Highly valued angling river. Tributaries provide important native fish habitat	Highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 4050l/s at Egmont Village. Shallow river. Numerous small rapids and continuous water movement. There are several pools along this section. 39% riparian cover over all reaches of the river, upper reaches consisting of exotic trees or pasture and introduced grasses or weeds.

<i>River or stream</i>	<i>Water quality</i>	<i>Recreational &amp; fishery values</i>	<i>Aesthetic &amp; scenic values</i>	<i>Comments<sup>27</sup></i>
Waiwhakaiho River (middle reaches – Lake Mangamahoe to Audrey Gale Park)	Excellent to good water quality. MCI excellent to very good, average 130.	Access for native fish through most of river. Highly valued angling river. Very highly rated for recreational uses and values. Tributaries provide important native fish habitat	Very highly rated for aesthetic and scenic values	Median flow of 5900l/s* at Audrey Gale Park. Series of continuous rocky rapids with segments of swiftly flowing turbulent white water. Eddies and pools occur below the rapids. 39% riparian cover over all reaches of the river, middle reaches consisting of mixed vegetation including indigenous
Waiwhakaiho River (lower reaches – Audrey Gale Park to river mouth)		Access for native fish through most of river. Highly valued angling river. Highly rated for recreational uses and values, including whitebaiting. Tributaries provide important native fish habitat		Median flow of 5900l/s* at river mouth is one of the highest of ring plain rivers. Slower moving section of the river with some rapids and pools. 39% riparian cover over all reaches of the river, lower reaches consisting of barren or introduced grasses and weeds.
Warea River		Smaller river, good access for native fish. Good habitat for threatened native fish species. Important native fish values.		16% total riparian cover, consisting of mono-culture of exotic trees or pasture.
Whenuakura River		High recreational value for whitebaiting.	Estuary listed in Coastal Plan as an area of outstanding coastal value.	



## Appendix III: Current policy framework for outstanding and high freshwater values

Set out below is a summary of the current policy framework as relates to Taranaki waterbodies identified as having outstanding freshwater values and or being maintained in their existing high natural state.

**Table 7:** Summary of current national and regional policy directions relating to outstanding and high freshwater values

Freshwater body	Document	Key values	Policy/method	Policy/method directions	
<b>Hangatahua (Stony) River</b>	Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki	Regionally important fisheries and angling features, scenic characteristics and recreational features, and cultural, historical and educational features	Policy 3.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the quality, quantity and level and rate of flow of water as far as possible in their natural state (achieved by prohibitive rules).</li> </ul>	
		High natural, ecological and amenity values	Policy 3.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance high natural, ecological and amenity values identified (relating to water quality, recreational and fishery values, and aesthetic and scenic values).</li> </ul>	
	Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki	Outstanding natural values, features and landscapes	NFL Method 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement objectives, policies and methods that promote the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes.</li> </ul>	
		High natural, ecological and amenity values	WAL Method 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement rules that allow, regulate or prohibit the taking and use of surface water to protect the natural character and instream values present as far as possible in their natural state.</li> </ul>	
	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	Outstanding freshwater bodies		WAL Policy 2 & WQU Policy 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance water quality and natural water levels and flows.</li> </ul>
				Objective A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall quality of fresh water within a region is maintained or improved while protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies.</li> </ul>
<b>Maketawa Stream catchment</b>	Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki	Largely unmodified with few water use pressures	Objective B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies are protected (in relation to the taking, using, damming or diverting of freshwater).</li> </ul>	
			Policy 6.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit the taking and use of water in part of the Maketawa Stream catchment.</li> </ul>	
	Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki	Outstanding natural values, features and landscapes	High natural, ecological and amenity values	Method 5, Issue 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate targeting part of the Maketawa Stream catchment with the objective of obtaining and sustaining a water quality status perceived to be of a quality which matches that of the Hangatahua (Stony) River.</li> </ul>
				Policy 3.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance high natural, ecological and amenity values identified (relating to water quality, recreational and fishery values, and aesthetic and scenic values).</li> </ul>
	High natural, ecological and amenity values	NFL Method 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement objectives, policies and methods that promote the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes.</li> </ul>		

Freshwater body	Document	Key values	Policy/ method	Policy/method directions
	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	Outstanding freshwater bodies	WAL Method 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement rules that allow, regulate or prohibit the taking and use of surface water in identified parts of the Maketawa Stream catchment to protect the natural character and instream values present as far as possible in their natural state.</li> </ul>
WAL Policy 2 & WQU Policy 3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance water quality and natural water levels and flows in parts of the catchment identified as having high quality or high value for their natural character and in-stream values.</li> </ul>	
Objective A2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall quality of fresh water within a region is maintained or improved while protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies.</li> </ul>	
Objective B4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies are protected (in relation to the taking, using, damming or diverting of freshwater).</li> </ul>	
<b>Upper Manganui River catchment</b>	Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki	Largely unmodified with few water takes	Policy 6.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit the taking and use of water in part of the Manganui River catchment, excluding Te Popo Stream</li> </ul>
		High natural, ecological and amenity values	Policy 3.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance high natural, ecological and amenity values identified (relating to water quality, recreational and fishery values, and aesthetic and scenic values).</li> </ul>
	Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki	High natural, ecological and amenity values	WAL Method 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement rules that allow, regulate or prohibit the taking and use of surface water in identified parts of the Manganui catchment to protect the natural character and instream values present as far as possible in their natural state.</li> </ul>
			WAL Policy 2 & WQU Policy 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance water quality and natural water levels and flows in parts of the catchment identified as having high quality or high value for their natural character and in-stream values.</li> </ul>
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	Outstanding freshwater bodies	Objective A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall quality of fresh water within a region is maintained or improved while protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies.</li> </ul>	
		Objective B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies are protected (in relation to the taking, using, damming or diverting of freshwater).</li> </ul>	
<b>Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve</b>	Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki	Not identified	N/A	Not identified
	Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki	Outstanding natural values, features and landscapes (Lake Rotokare)	NFL Method 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement objectives, policies and methods that promote the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes.</li> </ul>
	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	Outstanding freshwater bodies	Objective A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall quality of fresh water within a region is maintained or improved while protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies.</li> </ul>
Objective B4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies are protected (in relation to the taking, using, damming or diverting of freshwater).</li> </ul>	

## Appendix IV: Summary of rivers and lakes with outstanding or regionally significant freshwater values

Table 8 below summarises the attributes and values associated with freshwater bodies identified in this report have 'outstanding' or 'regionally significant' (high) instream values. Some values will be catchment wide while other values may be confined to a specific area or reach. Of note, the rivers, lakes and waterways identified are based upon present knowledge and, in relation to native fisheries and tangata whenua values, may not be an exhaustive selection.

**Table 8:** Outstanding and regionally significant freshwater values by catchment

Catchment <sup>(1)</sup>	Outstanding or regionally significant freshwater values					
	Aesthetic & scenic values (A)	Contact recreation (CR)	Fisheries - trout (T) or whitebait (W)	Spawning habitat - trout (T) or inanga (I)	Native fisheries <sup>(2)</sup> (NF)	Cultural, spiritual & historical associations <sup>(3)</sup> (C)
Arawhata						<b>C</b>
Hangatahua (Stony)	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Heimama						<b>C</b>
Herekawe					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Hihiwera						<b>C</b>
Huatoki	<b>A</b>		<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Hutiwai				<b>I</b>		
Inaha					<b>NF</b>	
Kai Auai	<b>A</b>					
Kaihihi					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Kakapo					<b>NF</b>	
Kapoiaiaia					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Kapuni	<b>A</b>		<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Katikara	<b>A</b>				<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Kaupokonui		<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Lake Rotokare	<b>A</b>				<b>NF</b>	
Maitahi						<b>C</b>
Manawapou			<b>W</b>	<b>I</b>		<b>C</b>
Mangahume					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Mangaroa					<b>NF</b>	

Catchment <sup>(1)</sup>	Outstanding or regionally significant freshwater values					
	Aesthetic & scenic values (A)	Contact recreation (CR)	Fisheries - trout (T) or whitebait (W)	Spawning habitat - trout (T) or inanga (I)	Native fisheries <sup>(2)</sup> (NF)	Cultural, spiritual & historical associations <sup>(3)</sup> (C)
Mangati					<b>NF</b>	
Matanehunehu					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Moutoti						<b>C</b>
Mimi	<b>A</b>		<b>W</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Mohakatino	<b>A</b>		<b>W</b>			<b>C</b>
Ngatoronui						<b>C</b>
Oakura	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Oaoiti					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Oaonui					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Oeo					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Okahu	<b>A</b>		<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Okawe					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Okurukura						<b>C</b>
Onaero	<b>A</b>		<b>W</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Otahi					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Otakeho			<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Otupoto						<b>C</b>
Otuwhenua						<b>C</b>
Ouri					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Papatiki						<b>C</b>
Parahaki			-	-	<b>NF</b>	
Patea	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b> <b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Pitone						<b>C</b>
Punehu					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Pungaereere						<b>C</b>
Puremunui (unnamed catchment)						<b>C</b>
Tangahoe			<b>W</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Tangihapu						<b>C</b>



Catchment <sup>(1)</sup>	Outstanding or regionally significant freshwater values					
	Aesthetic & scenic values (A)	Contact recreation (CR)	Fisheries - trout (T) or whitebait (W)	Spawning habitat - trout (T) or inanga (I)	Native fisheries <sup>(2)</sup> (NF)	Cultural, spiritual & historical associations <sup>(3)</sup> (C)
Tapuae	<b>A</b>		<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Taungatara			<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Te Henui	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Timaru	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Tongaporutu	<b>A</b>		<b>W</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Urenui	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Wahamoko					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waiau					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waiaua		<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>		<b>C</b>
Waihi					<b>NF</b>	
Waikoukou						<b>C</b>
Waimoku					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waingongoro	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waiongana			<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b> <b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waipapa					<b>NF</b>	
Wairau					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waitaha					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waitara		<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b> <b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Manganui	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Maketawa	<b>A</b>		<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>		<b>C</b>
Waiteika						<b>C</b>
Waitotara			<b>W</b>		<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waitotoroa				<b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	
Waiweranui					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Waiwhakaiho	<b>A</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>T</b> <b>W</b>	<b>T</b> <b>I</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>

Catchment <sup>(1)</sup>	Outstanding or regionally significant freshwater values					
	Aesthetic & scenic values (A)	Contact recreation (CR)	Fisheries - trout (T) or whitebait (W)	Spawning habitat - trout (T) or inanga (I)	Native fisheries <sup>(2)</sup> (NF)	Cultural, spiritual & historical associations <sup>(3)</sup> (C)
Warea			<b>T</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Werekino						<b>C</b>
Whenuariki					<b>NF</b>	<b>C</b>
Whenuakura			<b>W</b>			<b>C</b>
All other rivers with tidal influences				<b>I</b>		

<sup>1</sup>Catchment may include one or more specific waterbodies identified in the main body of the report, i.e. a number of identified rivers, lakes or streams lie within a specific catchment.

<sup>2</sup>As identified by the confirmed presence of threatened or regionally distinctive fish species, these being: banded kokopu; giant kokopu; freshwater mussel; shortjaw kokopu; koaro; inanga; long fin eels; lamprey; and brown mudfish.

<sup>3</sup> As identified in statutory acknowledgements made by the Iwi of the particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association of the iwi with the statutory area.

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