

Policy and Planning Committee

Tuesday 21 November 2017
10.30am
Taranaki Regional Council, Stratford



Agenda for the meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee to be held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 21 November commencing at 10.30am.

Members	Councillor N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)
	Councillor M P Joyce	
	Councillor C L Littlewood	
	Councillor D H McIntyre	
	Councillor B K Raine	
	Councillor C S Williamson	
	Councillor D L Lean	(ex officio)
	Councillor D N MacLeod	(ex officio)
Representative Members	Ms E Bailey	(Iwi Representative)
	Mr J Hooker	(Iwi Representative)
	Mrs B Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)
	Councillor P Nixon	(South Taranaki District Council)
	Mr M Ritai	(Iwi Representative)
Apologies	Councillor G Boyde	(Stratford District Council)
	Councillor R Jordan	(New Plymouth District Council)

Notification of Late Items

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Agenda Memorandum

Date 21 November 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Confirmation of Minutes – 17 October
2017**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director-Resource Management
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1963914

Resolve

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 10.40am
2. notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 31 October 2017.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1947669 – Minutes Policy and Planning Committee

Minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council, held in the Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 10.40am.



Members	Councillors	N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)	
		M P Joyce C L Littlewood D H McIntyre B K Raine		
		D L Lean	(ex officio)	
Representative Members	Ms	E Bailey	(Iwi Representative)	
	Councillor	G Boyde	(Stratford District Council)	
	Mr	J Hooker	(Iwi Representative)(<i>from 11.05am</i>)	
	Councillor	R Jordan	(New Plymouth District Council)	
	Mrs	B Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)	
	Mr	M Ritai	(Iwi Representative)	
Attending	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)	
		G K Bedford	(Director-Environment Quality)	
		M J Nield	(Director-Corporate Services)	
		S R Hall	(Director-Operations)	
		C L Spurdle	(Planning Manager)	
		G C Severinsen	(Policy and Strategy Manager)	
		R Ritchie	(Communications Manager)	
		P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)	
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)	
		Mrs	K van Gameren	(Committee Administrator)
		Mrs	N West	(Policy Analyst)
		Mrs	H Gerrard	(Science Manager)
		Mrs	V McKay	(Science Manager)
	Mr	R Phipps	(Science Manager)	
	Mrs	N West	(Policy Analyst)	
Mrs	F Mulligan	(Iwi Representative)		
Mr	H Eriwata	(Iwi Representative)		
Mr	J Clough	(Wrightson Consulting)		

Three Members of the media.

Apologies The apologies from Councillor D N MacLeod, Councillor C S Williamson, Councillor P Nixon (South Taranaki District Council) and Councillor C Coxhead (South Taranaki District Council) were received and sustained.

**Notification of
Late Items**

There were no late items of business.

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 29 August 2017

Resolved

THAT the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 10.30am
2. notes that the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 18 September 2017.

Raine/Walker

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. State of the Environment Monitoring of Lake Rotorangi water quality and biological programme Annual Report 2015-2016

- 2.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director-Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum presenting a report (*State of the Environment Monitoring of Lake Rotorangi water quality and biological programme Annual Report 2015-2016 Technical Report 2016-82*) prepared by the Council on the ecological and physico-chemical state of Lake Rotorangi, as determined in the 2015-2016 programme monitoring of the state of the lake, and trends in that quality since monitoring first began in 1984.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum noting the preparation of a report into the state of the water quality and biological programme of Lake Rotorangi as determined in monitoring during 2015-2016
2. notes the findings of the SEM programme
3. adopts the specific recommendation therein.

Littlewood/McIntyre

3. State of the Environment Monitoring Groundwater quality report 2016-2017

- 3.1 Mr R Phipps, Science Manager, spoke to the memorandum (and presentation) presenting a report (*State of the Environment Monitoring Groundwater Quality Report 2016-2017*).

- 3.2 Ms E Bailey sought discussion on groundwater monitoring and sampling across the ring plain and in the proximity of the Kupe and Rimu Production Stations. The purpose of the sampling and report was to provide a general regional overview as opposed to measuring groundwater quality at a specific industrial site. Given the technical nature of the queries Council staff would meet with Ms Bailey and report back to the Committee in due course.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *State of the Environment Groundwater Quality Report 2016-2017*, that presents the findings of a report into the state of and trends in the concentrations of nitrate in shallow groundwater resources within the region
2. receives the report *State of the Environment Groundwater Quality Report 2016-2017 Technical report 2017-45*
3. notes the findings of the analysis of state and trend data from the SEM groundwater programme
4. notes that Council officers are following up any elevated results with individual landowners, recognising most of the wells used in the programme are not used for potable supply
5. adopts the specific report recommendations therein.

Joyce/Littlewood

4. State of the Environment Rocky Shore Monitoring Report 2015-2017

- 4.1 Mr G K Bedford, Director Environment Quality, spoke to the memorandum presenting an update to the Committee on the latest results of the Council's state of the environment monitoring programme for rocky coastal environments. The Council's report *State of the Environment Rocky Shore Monitoring Report 2015-2017* provides full details of the Council's monitoring of the ecological condition of the region's rocky and reef foreshore environs.
- 4.2 Impacts of sand derived from accelerated erosion on the Maunga and human predation were noted as key impacts on kaimoana.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum noting the preparation of a report into the state of and trends in regional rocky coastal ecological quality data for Taranaki, for 2015-2017
2. receives the report *State of the Environment Rocky Shore Monitoring Report 2015-2017 Technical Report 2017-79*
3. notes the findings of the trend analysis of data from the SEM coastal ecological programme

4. notes the findings of the analysis of state data from the SEM coastal ecological programme

5. adopts the specific report recommendations therein.

Littlewood/Joyce

5. Regionally significant surf breaks

5.1 Mrs N West, Policy Analyst, spoke to the memorandum presenting for the Committee's consideration the findings of the online Wave Survey and the reports relating to the identification of regionally significant surf breaks.

5.2 In response to a query about the potential impact of increased surfers it was noted that additional work is underway with iwi to identify sites of cultural significance in the coastal marine area and liaising with district councils to ensure both natural and cultural environmental values/concerns are recognised. Work is also being undertaken (as a separate project) to identify reefs in the coastal marine area to be included in a GIS layer as part of the *Regional Coastal Plan* review.

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum
2. receives the consultant's report *Regional significance criteria for the assessment of surf breaks, Orchard, 2017*, and notes the findings of this report
3. receives the officer's report *Online Wave Survey data analysis and proposed regionally significant surf breaks*, and notes the findings of this report
4. notes that these reports will inform the section 32 evaluation for the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki*
5. notes the online survey is the first such survey undertaken in New Zealand
6. approves the inclusion of the 81 proposed regionally significant surf breaks in the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki* for further consultation with the community.

Boyde/Littlewood

There being no further business, the Committee Chairperson Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Committee meeting closed at 12.10pm.

Confirmed

Chairperson

_____ **N W Walker**

Date

21 November 2017

Agenda Memorandum

Date 21 November 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Confirmation of Hearing Committee
Minutes – 17 October 2017**

Approved by: S R Hall, Director-Operations

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1963922

Resolve

That the Policy and Planning Committee of the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. takes as read and confirms the minutes of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee meeting of the Taranaki Regional Council held in the Taranaki Regional Council chambers, 47 Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 12.10pm
2. notes the recommendations therein were adopted by the Taranaki Regional Council on 31 October 2017.

Matters arising

Appendices

Document #1947732 – Minutes Policy and Planning Hearing Committee

**Minutes of the Policy and Planning
Hearing Committee Meeting of the
Taranaki Regional Council, held in the
Taranaki Regional Council Chambers, 47
Cloten Road, Stratford, on Tuesday 17
October 2017 at 12.10pm.**



Members	Councillors	N W Walker	(Committee Chairperson)
		C L Littlewood D H McIntyre B K Raine	
		D L Lean	(ex officio)
Representative Members	Ms	E Bailey	(Iwi Representative)
	Mr	J Hooker	(Iwi Representative)
	Councillor	R Jordan	(New Plymouth District Council)
	Mrs	B Muir	(Taranaki Federated Farmers)
	Mr	M Ritai	(Iwi Representative)
Attending	Messrs	A D McLay	(Director-Resource Management)
		S R Hall	(Director-Operations)
		C L Spurdle	(Planning Manager)
		G C Severinsen	(Policy and Strategy Manager)
		R Ritchie	(Communications Officer)
		P Ledingham	(Communications Officer)
		S Tamarapa	(Iwi Communications Officer)
		R Phipps	(Science Manager)
		S Ellis	(Environment Services Manager)
		Mrs	K van Gameren
	Mrs	N West	(Policy Analyst)
	Mrs	J Ritchie	(Policy Analyst)
Mrs	F Mulligan	(Iwi Representative)	
Mr	H Eriwata	(Iwi Representative)	

Two Members of the media.

Apologies The apologies from Councillor M P Joyce, Councillor D N MacLeod, Councillor C S Williamson, Councillor G Boyde (Stratford District Council), Councillor P Nixon (South Taranaki District Council) and Councillor C Coxhead (South Taranaki District Council) were received and sustained.

**Notification of
Late Items** There were no late items of business.

1. Hearing of submissions on the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki and the Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*

- 1.1 Members of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee head from the following submitters who wished to speak to their written submission on the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki and the Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Submission No. 7	Taranaki Mounga Project Limited	Sean Zieltjes
Submission No. 6	Department of Conservation	Bill Fleury Nicola Palmer

- 1.2 Members of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee discussed and deliberated on all submissions received. Members made the following recommendations:

Submission No. 1 – Murray Hancock

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*
3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Submission No. 2 – Waikato Regional Council

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*
3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Submission No. 3 – Federated Farmers – Taranaki

Mrs B Muir, Federated Farmers Taranaki, and Councillor D N McIntyre declared an interest in Submission No. 3 (Federated Farmers Taranaki) and took no part in the discussions or deliberations.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's *Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*
3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Submission No. 4 – Morgan Foundation

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's *Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*
3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Submission No. 5 – Predator Free New Zealand Trust

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's *Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*
3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Councillor R Jordan, New Plymouth District Council, left the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee meeting at 12.50pm.

Submission No. 6 – Department of Conservation

The submitter's comments in support of their submission were received and noted. The matter of including Climbing Asparagus in the Pest Management Plan was discussed. It was agreed that Council officers would liaise with the Department of Conservation on this plant pest to address its control and/or eradication on a site by site basis. The discussions on Brown Bull-headed Catfish were acknowledged and noted. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this pest fish through the *Biosecurity Strategy* to ensure measures are in place should it be found in Taranaki.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission

2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy subject to minor amendments being made to provide relief in relation to some specific matters raised by the submitter
3. makes no further changes to the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki or the Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037.

Submission No. 7 – Taranaki Mounga Project Limited

The submitter's comments in support of their submission were received and noted. The matter of including rules relating to feral goats was noted and discussed. It was agreed that the Council support and assist the submitter in developing a goat eradication programme and that minor amendments could be made to the Biosecurity Strategy to recognise this matter.

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy subject to minor amendments being made to provide relief in relation to some specific matters raised by the submitter
3. makes no further changes to the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki or the Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037.

Submission No. 8 – KiwiRail Holdings Limited (KiwiRail)

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy
3. makes no further changes to the Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki or the Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037.

Submission No. 9 – Fish and Game New Zealand (Taranaki Region)

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy

3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.

Submission No. 10 – Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society (North Taranaki Branch)

Recommended

THAT the Taranaki Regional Council

1. thanks the submitter for their submission
 2. adopts the recommendations contained within the Officer's *Report to the Hearing Committee on submissions to the Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan and Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy*
 3. makes no further changes to the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* or the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*.
- 1.3 There being no further discussion on the submissions received on the *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* and the *Biosecurity Strategy for Taranaki 2017-2037*, Members of the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee recommended the following:

Recommended

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives and acknowledges with thanks the submissions received on the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* and the *Draft Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2037*
2. notes officers have undertaken a pre-hearing process to seek to resolve submissions received
3. adopts the recommendations contained within the attached *Officers' Report*, subject to any amendments agreed to by the Committee
4. agrees that the *Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* and the *Draft Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2037*, as amended, be presented to the Taranaki Regional Council's Ordinary Meeting on 31 October 2017 meeting for approval.

Walker/Raine

Closing Karakia Mr M Ritai (Iwi Representative) gave the closing Karakia to the Policy and Planning Committee and Karakia for kai (lunch).

There being no further business, the Hearing Committee Chairperson Councillor N W Walker, declared the Policy and Planning Hearing Committee meeting closed at 1.10pm.

Confirmed

Chairperson

_____ **N W Walker**

Date

21 November 2017

Agenda Memorandum

Date 21 November 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Update on the review of the Coastal Plan
and scheduling iwi sites of significance**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director – Resource Management

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1963539

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to update Members on the review of the *Coastal Plan for Taranaki* (the Coastal Plan) and, in particular, progress relating to the scheduling and protection of sites of significance to Māori.

Executive summary

- The Taranaki Regional Council (the Council) has commenced a review of its current *Regional Coastal Plan for Taranaki* under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA).
- Following the targeted consultation on the Draft Coastal Plan in 2016, officers have been working on a revised Plan for final consideration by the Committee as the Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki.
- One of the key issues arising from consultation on the draft Coastal Plan was the need for further work and engagement on the identification of sites of significance to tangata whenua.
- Under the RMA 'historic heritage' is defined to include sites of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu.
- Over the course of this calendar year, significant work and engagement between Council and iwi authorities has occurred to finalise a Schedule in a Proposed Coastal Plan that identifies sites and places with special cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional associations located within the coastal marine area.
- The benefits of scheduling sites of significance (where iwi show a desire to do so) are many-fold and include better protection of cultural sites of significance, increased certainty and clarity around the management of adverse effects, and would inform the resource consenting process such as for making affected party decisions.
- As at this time, that work has helped to confirm, identify and map in the order of 180 sites of significance that capture six of the seven coastal iwi.

- For one iwi – Te Atiawa – hapu do not wish to have their sites of significance identified in the Proposed Coastal Plan. In discussions with Te Atiawa it may be that hapu might revisit this position once they see the complete Plan.
- For some sites, local iwi and/or hapu do not wish that the location of sites be in the public domain. As part of this project, Council is reviewing and setting up, in discussions with interested iwi, its GIS systems to allow such sites to be referenced (but not mapped) in the Plan as a 'silent file' with their location identified on a database outside of plans and with restrictions on Plan user access.
- Officers have progressed the identification of iwi sites of significance as far as they are able at this time. The next step is to publicly notify a Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki in accordance with the First Schedule of the RMA. Officers anticipate presenting a Proposed Coastal Plan for Members' consideration early in the first quarter of 2018.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives this memorandum entitled *Update on the review of the Coastal Plan and scheduling iwi sites of significance*
2. notes that Council officers and Iwi authorities have been working together and largely finalised the scheduling of sites of significance to Māori to be included in a Proposed Coastal Plan (where there is agreement to do so)
3. notes that there will be further opportunity for Iwi and hapu to finalise sites of significance through the first schedule review process for the Proposed Coastal Plan
4. notes that the scheduling of sites of significance has implications for the protection of sites of significance, including affected party status through consenting processes
5. notes a proposed plan will be presented to the Committee for consideration early in quarter one next year.

Background

As Members are aware, the Council is currently undertaking full review of the Coastal Plan. In August 2016, Council released a draft non-statutory Coastal Plan for targeted consultation. The purpose of the draft Coastal Plan was to test whether Council proposals stack up and to see what might need changing before commencing the formal review process involving the release of a Proposed Plan for public submissions.

The Draft Coastal Plan was forwarded to a wide range of key stakeholders and other interested parties including tangata whenua, district councils, major consent holders, oil and gas sector groups, Department of Conservation, other government departments, and non-government organisations with an interest in coastal matters. One hundred and one submissions and responses were received by the due date of 18 November 2017.

The emphasis on pre-plan notification engagement with stakeholders has generally paid dividends for this Council in reducing the time and cost of the formal plan process under the RMA and further developing relationships with stakeholders.

Following the targeted consultation and community engagement on the Draft Coastal Plan, officers have been working on a revised plan for final consideration by the Committee as the

Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki. One of the key issues arising from consultation on the draft Coastal Plan was the need for further work and engagement on the identification of sites of significance to tangata whenua. Of note the Draft Coastal Plan included a draft Schedule identifying known sites with special cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional associations located within the CMA. The information included within the Schedule's tables represented a starting point to this identification process and was acknowledged as being incomplete.

It had been planned that a Proposed Coastal Plan would be presented to this meeting for Members' consideration. However, in discussions with some iwi it was decided to defer while for the purpose of undertaking further work and engagement to confirm the identification of sites of significance to tangata whenua. The purpose of this item is to report back on that engagement and the outcomes achieved.

Drivers for identifying sites of significance

Early on in the review of the Coastal Plan, iwi highlighted significant interest in scheduling sites of significance through the current review processes.

Pursuant to the Resource Management Act (RMA), the Council is responsible for promoting the sustainable management of the coastal marine area (CMA) of the Taranaki region and is required to prepare a Coastal Plan. The CMA refers to the wet bit of the coast. Its landward boundary is the mean high water mark and extends seaward to 12 nautical miles. Beyond this is the Exclusive Economic Zone, which is managed by the Environmental Protection Authority.

Sites of particular significance are afforded a greater level of recognition and protection under section 6 matters of national importance under the RMA. In particular, the RMA requires the Council when exercising its functions and powers under the RMA to recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions (sections 6(e) RMA), and historic heritage (sections 6(f) RMA).

"(6) In achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall recognise and provide for the following matters of national importance:

...

- (e) the relationship of Māori and their cultures and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga:*
- (f) the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development."*

Of note, the definition of 'historic heritage' in the RMA includes sites of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu.

Taranaki's coast is particularly significant for local iwi and hapu. Some coastal sites and places are of particular cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional significance to iwi and hapu. They include wāhi tapu, urupa (burial sites) and battlegrounds, tauranga waka (ancestral canoe landing and launching sites), toko taunga ika (rocks marking fishing grounds), and landscape features signifying iwi and hapu boundaries.

Wāhi tapu, sites or places of cultural significance, and customary resources are also integral to the identity, well-being and cultural integrity of tangata whenua. Māori perceive natural and physical resources such as land, air, water and the coast as a taonga – an invaluable

treasure – which has been gifted by their tipuna (ancestors) for the benefit and use of the descendants. This gift imposes a responsibility on the tangata whenua, as kaitiaki, to ensure that the resource is conserved and handed on to future generations in a similar condition.

Pursuant to Policy 17 of the *New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement* (which the Coastal Plan must give effect to), historic heritage in the coastal environment must be protected from inappropriate subdivisions, use and development.

Use and development activities that can impact on sites of significance and broader cultural heritage values include coastal subdivision, disturbance, and the placement or extension of structures in and along the coast. To what degree the impact affects sites of significance depends on the values and the scale and location of the activity. One of the challenges of managing cultural heritage values generally is the lack of information and knowledge about important sites or values. For example, there are many unrecorded archaeological sites. Many archaeological sites, particularly Māori sites of interest (e.g. taonga or wāhi tapu sites) have not been publicly recorded or been clearly identified.

Update on the identification of coastal sites of significance

While the entire coastal and freshwater environments are of significance to Māori, generally there are specific sites and areas that are of particular significance because of their special historical, spiritual and cultural associations (hereafter referred in this Item as ‘sites of significance’). Of note, case law states that for a site to be considered under section 6 of the RMA [Matters of national importance] that they need to be of ‘particular significance’. As a general principle, it is accepted that only tangata whenua can identify and evidentially substantiate their sites of significance.

As previously noted, through the Coastal Plan review, Council has been working with iwi authorities to identify and, where practicable, map their sites of significance. The advantages of doing this work are many-fold and potentially include:

- providing increased certainty for iwi, Council and consent applicants as to where sites of significance lie and the need to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on them;
- providing a ‘flag’ to signal that iwi may be affected in a particular area, therefore promoting early consultation between the applicant and iwi and demonstrate the results of the consultation within their consent application;
- supporting Council policies and procedures to ensure Iwi are involved at the front-end of a resource consent application rather than being in a reactive role, which is desired by iwi;
- supporting Council policies and procedures (both inside and outside a revised Coastal Plan) for determining whether tangata whenua are an affected party to a resource application;
- increasing community understanding and awareness of Māori values;
- creating a dataset which may have broader beneficial applications for iwi and hapu for their own purposes; and
- reducing capacity required by iwi and hapu to deal with coastal consenting processes by narrowing down and better targeting the amount of consent proposals where iwi or involvement is required.

The identification of these sites in a Plan or in supporting GIS layers has been an extensive

and ongoing exercise across much of the 2017 calendar year. The schedules included in the Draft Coastal Plan were very preliminary in terms of the sites of significance were identified largely based upon those already identified in the public domain. Some sites were identified in the reports *Taranaki Region Coastal Plan Review – Archaeological Scoping Study* (December 2012) and *Regional Landscape Study of the Taranaki Coastal Environment* (November 2015). However, the majority of scheduled sites were identified through statutory acknowledgements and deeds of settlement. At the time, it was noted that the Schedule represented a starting point to this identification process and were acknowledged as being incomplete.

Feedback from iwi on the issue, and subsequent engagement, has helped to further confirm identified sites plus identify and map additional sites. As at this time, six of the seven coastal iwi have agreed to share their information. This has resulted in the order of 180 sites of significance now been identified and mapped. Officers anticipate further refinement of the Schedule may occur through the formal review process.

For some sites, local iwi and hapu do not wish that the location of sites be in the public domain. These sites might include culturally sensitive areas such as baptisms spots or urupa. As part of this project, Council is reviewing and setting up its GIS systems to allow such sites to be referenced (but not mapped) in the Plan as a 'silent file'. The location of sites on silent files would be identified on a database outside of the Coastal Plan with restrictions on Plan user access.

For one iwi – Te Atiawa – officers have been informed that hapu do not wish to have their sites of significance identified in the Proposed Coastal Plan. It may be that hapu might revisit this position once they see the complete Plan.

Public notification of a Proposed Coastal Plan

Both Council and iwi are actively working on building more effective relationships. Officers have progressed the identification of iwi sites of significance as far as they are able at this time.

The next step is to publicly notify a *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki* in accordance with the First Schedule of the RMA. Officers are finalising changes to Plan provisions and anticipate presenting a Proposed Coastal Plan for Members' consideration in the first quarter of 2018. If the Committee agrees, the Proposed Plan would then be publicly notified for submissions. This stage represents the formal statutory part of the review and there will be further opportunities for formal public input into the Plan review process.

Members should note that a report prepared pursuant to section 32 of the RMA will accompany the *Proposed Coastal Plan for Taranaki*. The section 32 report will contain an evaluation of the benefits and costs of the objectives, policies and methods in the Proposed Plan and the appropriateness of the objectives and policies and methods having regard to alternatives. This report will include a complete record of engagement with tangata whenua, including a summary of all advice concerning the proposal received from iwi authorities and Council's response to that advice.

In relation to the scheduling sites of significance to Māori (where iwi show a desire to do so), officers anticipate that once the Coastal Plan is operationalised there will be significant benefits to Council, resource users and iwi. In particular, the identification of such sites will

inform the resource consenting process such as affected party determinations and the application of policies and rules to avoid significant adverse effects on sites of significance arising from coastal use and development.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Biosecurity Act 1993*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Agenda Memorandum

Date 21 November 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Policy and Planning Committee**

**Subject: Ministry for the Environment/Stats NZ:
Atmosphere and Climate Domain Report
2017**

Approved by: G K Bedford, Director Environment Services
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1953907

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to present to the Committee, the main findings and observations of the report 'Our atmosphere and climate 2017: Data to 2016', recently released by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ. An excerpt of the report that covers material relevant to Taranaki's climate is attached to this memorandum, and the full report is available from the MfE website at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/media/our-atmosphere-and-climate-2017-final.pdf>.

Executive summary

The report under discussion is one of the on-going six-monthly series that the Ministry for the Environment and StatsNZ (formerly Statistics New Zealand) are obliged by the Environmental Reporting Act 2015 to prepare and release publicly. In doing so, they are able to utilise any data or information from a wide range of sources. The environmental domain reports are to be regular, robust and reliable reports that provide comprehensive information on specific aspects of the environment of New Zealand. They are intended to not only inform, but to provide the evidential basis for subsequent better decision-making on environmental management.

The report focuses primarily on evidence for a changing climate of New Zealand, with an analysis of our national greenhouse gases inventory. The excerpt attached to this memorandum provides information on changes to the regional climate over the last 5 decades or so.

The Council has previously been advised of similar reports by MfE/StatsNZ covering the air (May 2014), marine (November 2016), and freshwater (June 2017) domains, and an 'omnibus' report *Environment Aotearoa 2015* (November 2015).

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *MfE/Stats NZ: Atmosphere and Climate Domain Report 2017*
2. notes the release by the Ministry for the Environment/StatsNZ of the report referenced in the memorandum.

Background

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has recently released its fifth report in its Environmental Reporting Series, this time covering the atmosphere domain and including consideration of greenhouse gases and climate change, following earlier reports on air quality, the marine environment, fresh water, and on a general overview of the country's environment as a whole. These reports are intended to give a reliable and independent national statement concerning the country's environment. They are to be published at six-monthly intervals, covering five 'domains' in turn (marine, freshwater, atmosphere/climate, land, and air), with a sixth report to be an omnibus report across all domains. Biodiversity is to be integrated into each domain report as appropriate. The obligation for the two government ministries to prepare the reports comes from the Environmental Reporting Act 2015.

The reports are based on a framework of pressure and influences, state and changes in state, and impacts and effects (the ecological, economic, social, and cultural consequences of changes in the state of the environment).

As has been noted to the Committee previously by officers, one direct and inevitable consequence of this model is that it sets out problems and issues without any reference to whether or how these are being addressed ('responses'). The Council has previously taken issue with this framework, as it notably omits any reference to or description of management interventions and outcomes, and further, the 'pressures' discussions tend to highlight predominantly the negative pressures and consequences i.e. threats and problems, rather than any counterbalancing or advantageous drivers of environmental quality and enhancement. MfE's argument for taking this approach is that any discussion of interventions and their effectiveness would be subjective and open to political slant or bias; the Council's strong view is that descriptions of management activities and measures of their effectiveness or otherwise can be every bit as objective and independent as any other data. While negative effects of human activities are being reported freely and fully, positive effects of human activities are not. It is noted that councils within New Zealand and countries around the world routinely report on environmental quality using a 'pressure-state-response' model. It is again suggested that this alternative framework provides a more comprehensive and meaningful reporting mechanism for assisting public understanding of what is happening within the natural environment.

Discussion

The presentation of the full report is accompanied on the MfE website by an 'At a glance' infographic, and by technical datasets available for access by anyone interested in the data itself. The attached Executive Summary from the report encapsulates the main points of the report re climate change (see Appendix I of this memorandum).

Climate change: nationally and in Taranaki

With specific reference to Taranaki's climate, it is noted that the report offers the following analysis:-

Temperature: At a national scale, New Zealand's average ground temperature has increased by 1 °C since measurements began 110 years ago. This is at the lower end of the global temperature increase over the same period, reflecting the moderating effect of our oceanic location and narrow land mass. New Zealand's five hottest years have all occurred within the last 20 years. The records show that the eruption of Mt Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1992-1993 caused a sharp drop in the national temperature that year.

Frost days are days when the air temperature drops below 0°C, while warm days are days when air temperature exceeds 25°C. Over the last 45 years, frost days have decreased at 10 of 30 national monitoring sites, and increased at 1 site. Warm days have increased at 8 sites and decreased at 1 site.

Growing-degree days are a measure combining degrees Celsius above a threshold, typically 10°C, with the days on which the temperature is above the threshold. The extent and timing of growing-degree days influence the length and characteristics of the growing season, insect reproduction cycles, and other natural processes. In the last 45 years, 16 of 30 sites nationwide show increases in growing-degree days.

Officers note that the base year for this comparison (1972) was in fact a very warm year (the warmest on record until 2000), so the trends in temperature noted in the report do not arise as an artefact of the selection of a cold starting year.

Temperature trends: In both north Taranaki (New Plymouth monitoring site) and south Taranaki (Wanganui weather station site), there has been no significant change in annual frost days or annual warm days in the last 45 years. However, the number of growing-degree days is increasing.

Sunshine hours: The number of hours of sunshine experienced at both New Plymouth and Wanganui is significantly increasing, as it is at 27 of 30 monitoring sites nationwide. The reduction in cloud cover is linked to a shift of storm tracks southward and dry tropical zones expanding.

Rainfall: The report covers average rainfall by season, and trends in rainfall within each season. It also presents information on trends in intense rainfall episodes. The report goes on to note that climate change modelling suggest there will be an overall pattern of increasing rainfall in winter and spring down western New Zealand and across the south of the South Island, with drier conditions to the north and east. However, in summer, more rainfall is expected to the north and east of both islands.

Across most of New Zealand, there is as yet no evidence of changes either in seasonal rainfall or in extreme rainfall events. However, south Taranaki is showing an increase in spring rainfall, and north Taranaki a decrease in winter rainfall. In terms of extreme events, both the severity of rainfall events, and the proportion of annual rainfall falling during intense events, is decreasing in north Taranaki (ie extreme rainfall is becoming less severe, and there are fewer such events). These observed trends are the opposite of what climate change models predict- increases in extreme event rainfall intensities and increases in total annual rainfall.

The report notes that modelling also projects increases in both severity and frequency of droughts, except for Taranaki, Manawatu, and the west and south of the South Island.

Wind: The report notes that Wellington, Invercargill, and Gore have the highest wind speed gusts in New Zealand, and Reefton, Gisborne, and Queenstown are the least windy.

The report used two measures for trends in extreme wind: the number of days each year with a maximum wind gust in the 99th%ile, and the highest maximum gust speed. Over the last 45 years, both the magnitude and the frequency of extreme wind events decreased at about 1/3 of all monitoring sites. New Plymouth was the only site in New Zealand that saw a significant increase in the highest maximum gust speed. New Plymouth, along with Queenstown, also saw an increase in the number of days each year that experience a maximum speed gust. So north Taranaki is experiencing higher wind speeds, occurring on more days of the year.

Modelling projects increases in extreme wind speeds in the southern half of the North Island, and decreases in the north-east.

Greenhouse gases and climate change: national context

Councillors will recall that the Resource Management Act was amended some years ago to make it explicit that regional councils have no role in the regulation and monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions (eg carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, and chlorinated fluorocarbons). Likewise, regional councils have no role or function around mitigating or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, or for taking climate change into account when assessing discharge consent applications. These matters are outside our jurisdiction. However, the consequences of climate change, such as changes in flood hazard and land use capability, are matters that the Council is to address more broadly in carrying out its functions and duties. Therefore the findings of this report will inform Council officers in their responsibilities and forward planning.

For the more general information of the Council, other key findings and statements from the MfE report are as follows:-

Emissions inventory: Around the world, greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are changing the atmosphere and climate. Although agriculture is New Zealand's largest emissions sector, road transport had one of the largest increases in emissions since 1990 (78 percent).

- New Zealand's contribution to global gross greenhouse gas emissions is small (0.17 percent), but we have the fifth-highest level of emissions per person of the 35 countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD, 2017).

- New Zealand's gross greenhouse gas emissions rose 24 percent from 1990 to 2015, with most of the increase having occurred by 2005. Most of the increase came from road transport and agricultural production (largely from nitrogen fertiliser use and grazing animal excrement on managed soils, and livestock digestion).

- At the same time, our net greenhouse gas emissions rose 64 percent, as a result of increasing gross emissions and higher logging rates in production forests. 'Net emissions' acknowledge the role of carbon sinks, such as growing forests, in removing atmospheric greenhouse gases but also adding them when forests are harvested and land use is changed.

- Agriculture emissions (mainly methane and nitrous oxide) made up almost half our

greenhouse gas emissions in 2015, reflecting the important role of the agriculture sector in New Zealand's economy.

Effects of climate change

The report states that climate-related changes to our oceans will continue for centuries and are threats to marine life, commercial and recreational fishing, Māori customary practices, and other cultural and recreational practices. Rising sea levels are threatening public and private coastal communities, infrastructure, cultural sites, and marine habitats.

The decreasing volumes of our glaciers affect ecological and hydropower resources, and cultural and tourism activities.

Changes to New Zealand's marine environment include:

- The acidity of the sub-Antarctic ocean off the Otago coast has increased since 1998.
- The average sea-surface temperature around New Zealand increased 0.7 degrees Celsius from 1909 to 2009, similar to worldwide increases (Mullan et al, 2010).¹
- Coastal sea levels have risen by up to 22 centimetres, depending on location, over the last century, consistent with global trends.

From 1977 to 2016, it is estimated our glaciers lost almost 25 percent (13.3 cubic kilometres) of their ice volume.

Since the 1972/73 measurement season, soils at one-fifth of sites around New Zealand have been getting drier. The frequency and intensity of drought in drought-prone regions are expected to increase with climate change, with important implications for our primary industries.

We do not yet have a detailed understanding of how the changing climate will add to the pressures faced by already vulnerable native flora and fauna. However, emerging evidence suggests it is already affecting some species and their ecosystems:

- the sex ratios of North Brother Island tuatara are changing –there are now more male offspring in response to warmer nest temperatures.
- the numbers of invasive wasps have increased around the Nelson area because of increasing spring temperatures.

The report concludes:

If global greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated, we face further warming by the end of this century that will lead to high to very high risk of severe, widespread, and irreversible impacts globally, with far-reaching implications for New Zealand

Implications for councils

Under the purpose and principles of the RMA - Section 7 (other matters) this Council is required to have particular regard to the effects of climate change in making policy, and in consent decisions (but excluding coastal and discharge consents, except to the extent of

¹ A separate scientific study, released recently (*Scientific Reports* 7, Article 14527, 6 November 2017), shows that on a sub-national basis there has been more noticeable warming around the central and southern coastal areas of the South Island, and the far north of the North Island, but no change around central New Zealand. Winter sea temperatures have increased more than summer temperatures.

supporting the use and development of renewable energy strictly within the consent application-Section 104E).

The Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki (RPS) contains region-wide policy on responding to the effects of climate change (see Section 7.2 of the RPS). The stated objective is:

'To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects on the Taranaki environment arising from climate change.'

In line with local government's role in climate change, Policy 1 of the RPS deals with adapting to the effects of climate change. It states:

'Avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the environment arising from climate change by recognising and providing for:

- (a) the development and protection of the built environment and infrastructure in a manner that takes into account the potential effects of rising sea levels and more variable and extreme weather patterns;*
- (b) adaptation within agriculture, forestry, and other primary industries to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on the use of natural and physical resources;*
- (c) a potential increase in biosecurity risks to primary production and biodiversity values; and*
- (d) possible adverse effects on ecosystems including those with conservation and biodiversity values and on public health.*

The RPS also contains policy on mitigating the effects of climate change but recognises that this is being addressed at a national and international level and that local government functions in relation to mitigating climate change have been restricted under the RMA. However, it promotes actions that are in accordance with local government functions and which fall within the New Zealand's national policy framework.

The Council's primary responsibilities in relation to climate change are in adapting to the effects of climate change. For example, the design of structures in river beds, including flood control works, bridges, and water intakes, will need to be designed to cope with more frequent flood events of potentially greater volume. Further, in the Proposed Regional Coastal Plan sea level rise is identified and becomes part of the establishment of natural hazard zones regulated and administered by district councils with appropriate land use controls.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual Plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Appendices/Attachments

Document 1953904: *Our Atmosphere and Climate 2017* Ministry for the Environment/StatsNZ (excerpt)



>> New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series

Our atmosphere and climate 2017

DATA TO 2016

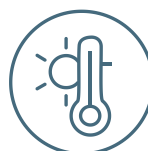
newzealand.govt.nz

State of New Zealand’s climate

This section reports on a range of climate variables that together give a picture of the current and changing state of New Zealand’s climate. The longest record reported in this section is for land-surface temperature, with data back to 1909 (NIWA, 2010). For the 30 sites we report on, measurement of most other variables started in the 1960s or early 1970s – once all sites were reporting regular data for that variable. A wealth of data, collected over many decades, allows us to monitor and detect natural climate variability, long-term trends, and the human contribution to such trends.

Temperature

New Zealand’s annual average land-surface temperature (measured 1.3 metres above the ground) has increased 1 degree Celsius since 1909, when measurements first began. This is consistent with the lower end of the global average increase of land temperature over a similar period (1–1.2 degrees Celsius from 1880 to 2012) due to the moderating influence of our oceanic location.



2016 was our warmest year since at least 1909.

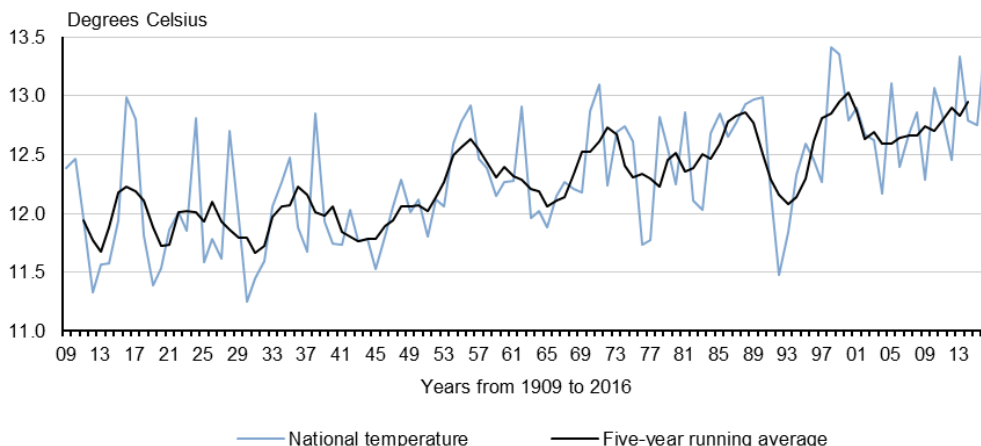
See [Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: National temperature time series](#)

From 1909 to 2016, our annual average temperature was 12.3 degrees Celsius.

Our five warmest years occurred in the last 20 years, with 2016 the warmest. Globally, 19 of the 20 warmest years occurred within the last 20 years. The more variable and more moderate recent warming over New Zealand reflects the moderating influence of our oceanic location (NIWA, nd-b) (see figure 8).

Figure 8

Annual average temperature 1909–2016



Source: NIWA

Note: The unusual drop in temperature from 1992 to 1993 is a result of the volcanic eruption at Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

We can expect temperatures to continue increasing, with warming unabated to 2100 and beyond unless the world follows a low-emissions path that includes removing some carbon dioxide presently in the atmosphere (Ministry for the Environment, 2016) (see [New Zealand’s future climate and climate risks](#) and [Appendix: Climate change projections for New Zealand](#)).

Frost and warm days

Frost days are days when the minimum air temperature is 0 degrees Celsius or lower, while warm days are days when the maximum air temperature is higher than 25 degrees Celsius. Climate models project fewer cold and more warm extremes in the future (see [Appendix: Climate change projections for New Zealand](#)).



Between 1972 and 2016, the number of frost days decreased at 10 of 30 measurement sites.

See Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: Frost and warm days

Over the 45 years between 1972 and 2016, the number of frost days decreased at 10 of the 30 measured sites and increased at 1 site, while no trend was apparent at the other 19 measured sites around New Zealand. The number of warm days increased at 8 and decreased at 1 of the 30 measured sites. No trend in warm days was apparent at 21 sites (figure 9).

Growing degree days

Growing degree days measure heat accumulation, which can be used to predict plant, and subsequently, animal growth. For example, they can be used to predict when certain flowers will bloom or insects will emerge from dormancy. Growing degree days count the total number of degrees Celsius the average temperature each day is above a base temperature, commonly a threshold of 10 degrees Celsius.



Our increasing temperatures have resulted in a greater number of growing degree days across the country between 1972 and 2016.

See Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: Growing degree days

Plant and animal cycles are interdependent across the food chain. Small changes, for example, in the timing of insect reproduction, can mean that species further up the food chain miss out on a crucial food source. The greater the change in timings, the more pressure species further up the food chain experience. In extreme cases, some species are threatened with extinction.



Our increasing temperatures have resulted in a greater number of growing degree days across the country (see figure 9) between 1972 and 2016. Of 30 measured sites, 16 showed increasing trends.

We do not yet have data to assess the impact of changes in growing degree days, but we can expect the changes to both challenge and provide opportunities for our agricultural industries. For example, some plants may suffer, while new varieties may be able to be grown in novel conditions. We may also experience longer growing seasons.

We are experiencing a greater number of growing degree days across the country. (Photo: NIWA)

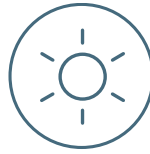
Figure 9



Source: NIWA

Sunshine

Sunshine is important for plant growth and our mental and physical well-being, as well as benefiting tourism and recreation. However, it can also increase our risk of skin damage (see [UV sunlight and health](#)).



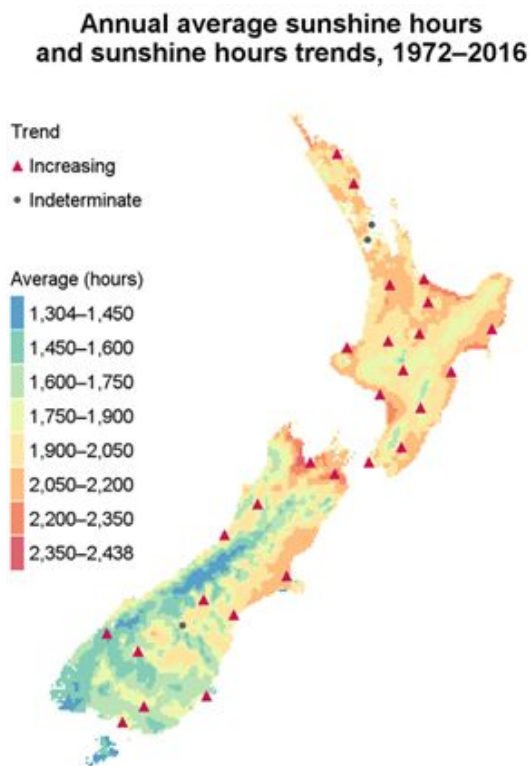
From 1972 to 2016, most places around New Zealand received more sunshine.

From 1972 to 2016, sunshine hours increased at 27 of 30 locations around New Zealand (see figure 10). On average, most places around the country received between around 1,700 and 2,100 hours of sunshine each year. The increase in sunshine hours is because of reduced cloud cover (Liley, 2009).

See [Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: Sunshine hours](#)

Cloud distribution patterns in the atmosphere appear to be changing globally, with increasing greenhouse gas concentrations a major driver for this change (Norris et al, 2016). The changing patterns are consistent with storm tracks shifting towards the poles and subtropical dry zones expanding. As a result of these changes, we can expect less cloud cover and more sunshine over New Zealand (Norris et al, 2016).

Figure 10



Source: NIWA

Rainfall

The impacts of high or low rainfall can be positive or negative. Rainfall is a valuable source of water for crops and gardens, as well as a generator of hydroelectricity. However, rainfall can restrict some recreational activities and has serious impacts when it leads to flooding, or when a lack of it leads to drought.

Annual and seasonal rainfall

Annual and seasonal rainfall are highly variable and depend on short-term weather patterns and long-term climate oscillations such as El Niño Southern Oscillation, the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation, and the Southern Annular Mode.



Between 1960 and 2016, winter rainfall in Whangarei, Wellington, and New Plymouth decreased while summer rainfall in Dunedin and Kerikeri increased.

See [Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: Annual and seasonal rainfall](#)

Geographically, annual average rainfall varies from less than 400 millimetres in places like Central Otago to over 4,000 millimetres in mountainous areas such as the Tararua range, and even more in the Southern Alps (an average of over 6,000 millimetres has been recorded at Milford Sound).

Rainfall also varies seasonally, with more rain in winter than in summer for most of the country except the southern half of the South Island, where most rain falls in summer. Despite no clear trend in annual rainfall, seasonal rainfall in some locations showed trends (see figure 11). For example, between 1960 and 2016, winter rainfall in Whangarei, Wellington, and New Plymouth decreased while summer rainfall increased in Dunedin and Kerikeri.

Climate models project that rainfall is very likely to increase on average over winter and spring in the south of the South Island and west of both the North and South islands (see [Appendix: Climate change projections for New Zealand](#)). Meanwhile, drier average conditions are expected in the east and north. In summer, wetter conditions are likely in the north and east of both islands (Ministry for the Environment, 2016).

Intense rainfall events

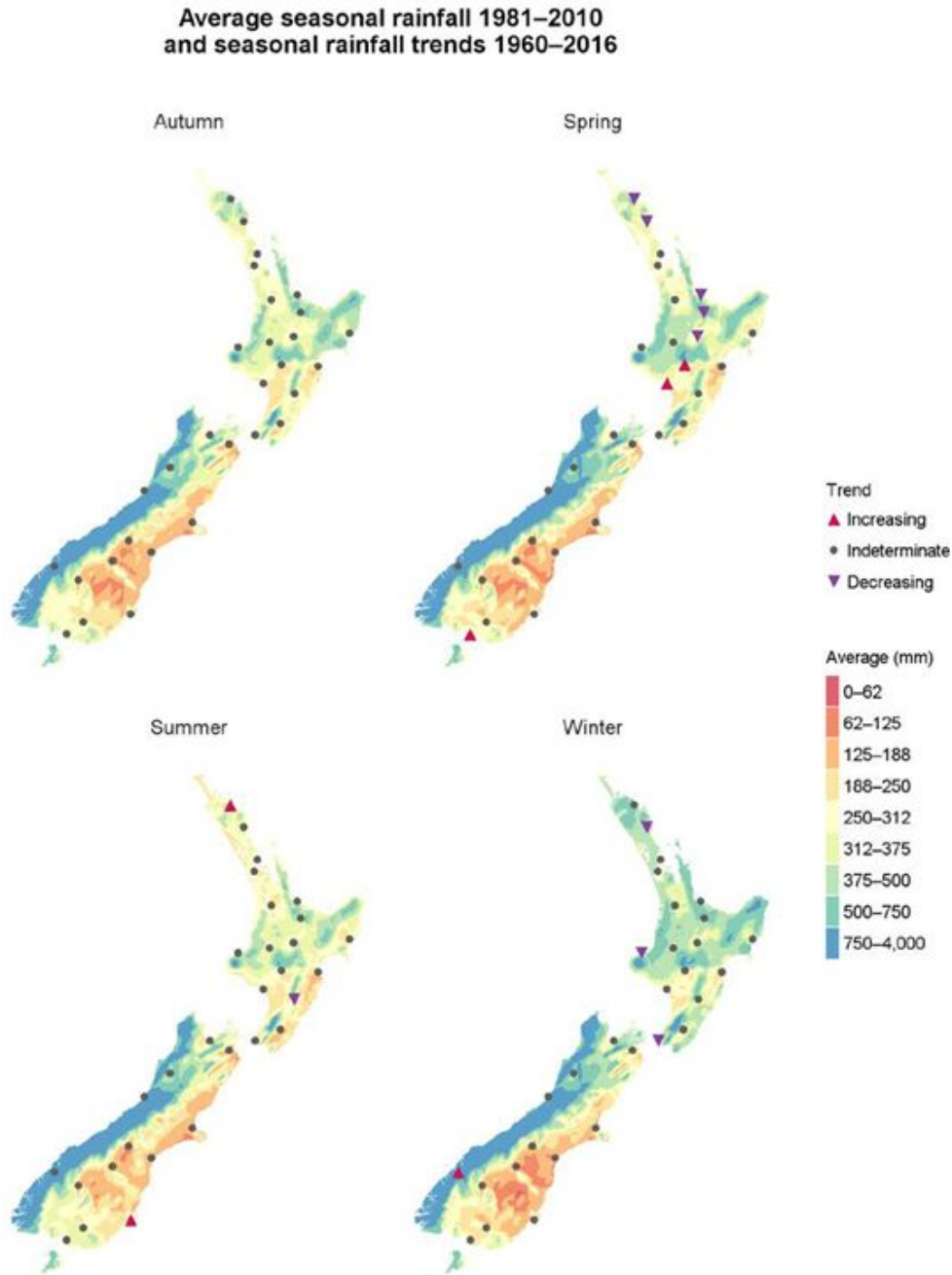
Changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of weather and climate extremes are expected to result from a changing climate (IPCC, 2012). Some reasons for this are well understood. For example, the natural global water cycle is intensifying as the atmosphere warms. This leads to increased evaporation, which may worsen droughts but may also increase the frequency of intense rainfall events because a warmer atmosphere can hold more water.



Between 1960 and 2016, the proportion of intense annual rainfall events increased in Napier and Timaru.

See [Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: Rainfall intensity](#)

Figure 11



Source: NIWA

For most of New Zealand, there is no clear evidence that intense rainfall events have changed between 1960 and 2016. However, there were trends at some locations (see figure 12):

- the proportion of annual rainfall occurring in intense events (in the 95th percentile) decreased at 4 of 30 locations (Auckland, New Plymouth, Rotorua, and Taupō) and increased at two (Napier and Timaru)
- the annual maximum one-day rainfall amounts decreased at 4 of 30 locations (Auckland, Hamilton, Taupō, and New Plymouth) and increased at two (Timaru and Dunedin).

As the climate changes, the number of intense rainfall events is expected to increase over most of the country (except for Northland and Hawke’s Bay), with up to a 20 percent increase of events possible in the south of the South Island (Ministry for the Environment, 2016) (see [Appendix: Climate change projections for New Zealand](#)).

The extent to which a specific individual event is influenced by increasing greenhouse gas concentrations is difficult to determine. Many factors combine to produce a specific event, and because such events are rare, there are usually only a few examples of past events for any given location (Herring et al, 2016).

So far, published studies have identified increasing greenhouse gas concentrations contributing to two recent New Zealand flooding events: 2011 – a flood in Golden Bay (Dean et al, 2013); and 2014 – a flood in Northland (Rosier et al, 2015). These studies indicate that, while such events might have happened in the absence of high greenhouse gas emissions, they were more extreme than they would have been without the warming caused by additional greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Wind

Wind is a valuable source of renewable energy, but strong gusts can damage property and trees and cause havoc for transport, communications, and power.

Average annual maximum wind gusts using data between 1972 and 2016 showed Wellington, Invercargill, and Gore were the windiest populated centres in the country, while Reefton, Gisborne, and Queenstown were the least windy.



Between 1972 and 2016, the frequency and magnitude of extreme wind decreased at about one-third of sites across New Zealand.

See [Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa: Extreme wind](#)

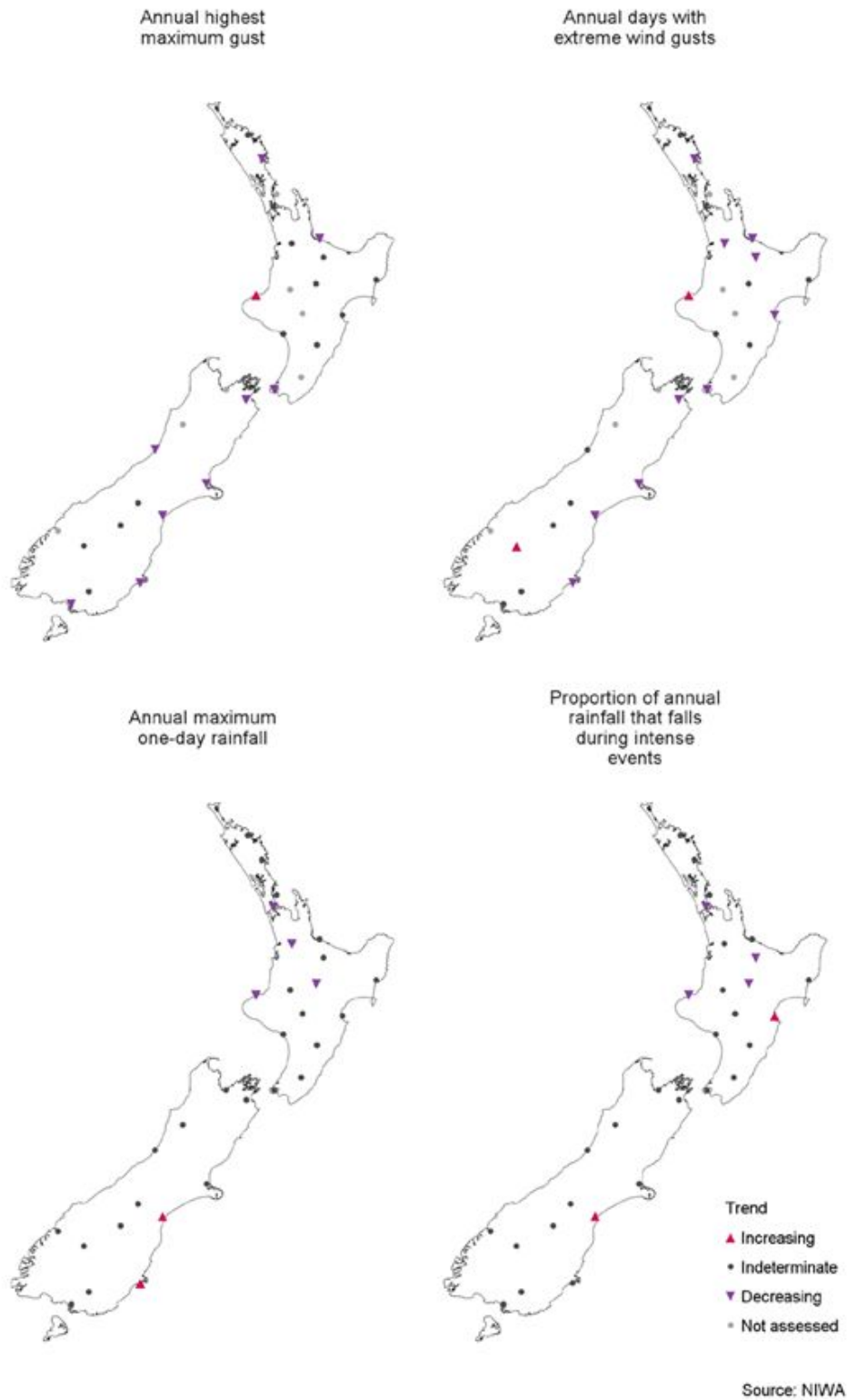
In this report, we analysed extreme wind using two statistics: the number of days each year with a maximum wind gust in the 99th percentile and the annual highest maximum gust.

Between 1972 and 2016, the frequency and magnitude of extreme wind decreased at about one-third of sites across New Zealand (see figure 12). Over this period, the number of days a year with a gust that is extreme for that location decreased at 10 of 30 sites (Whangarei, Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Blenheim, Christchurch, Timaru, and Dunedin) and increased at two sites (New Plymouth and Queenstown). New Plymouth also experienced an increase in highest maximum wind gusts.

Projections indicate climate change may alter the occurrence of extreme wind events, with the strength of extreme winds expected to increase over the southern half of the North Island and the South Island, especially east of the Southern Alps (Ministry for the Environment, 2016) (see [Appendix: Climate change projections for New Zealand](#)).

Figure 12

Extreme wind (1972–2016) and intense rainfall (1960–2016) trends



Appendix: Climate change projections for New Zealand

Climate change projections for New Zealand in table 3 were produced by NIWA following the release of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. Projections for ocean acidification, ocean warming, and sea-level rise come from IPCC (2013; 2014a). For more projections and scenarios see the Ministry for the Environment's [climate change projections for New Zealand](#) and NIWA's [climate change scenarios for New Zealand](#).

Table 3 Magnitude and variation of climate-related changes for New Zealand, data to 2016 and projections

Climate variable	Description of projected change	Our data to 2016	Timeframe of change	
			Projected changes (compared with 1995) by:	
			2040	2090
Average temperature	Warming greatest at higher elevations and during summer/autumn Warming peaks, then declines slightly during the 21st century only under low carbon projections	Average land surface temperature increased by 1°C since 1909	+0.7°C to +1.0°C	+0.7°C to +3.0°C 2110: +0.7°C to +3.7°C
Frost days	Decrease in frost days (0°C or lower) Decline in frost days greatest in coldest regions	Reduced frequency of frost days at 10 of 30 locations, increased frequency at 1 location; earliest data 1972	30% to 50% decrease	30% to 90% decrease
Warm days	Increase in warm days (maximum temperature of 25°C or higher)	Increase in warm days at 8 of 30 locations, decrease at one location; earliest data 1972	40% to 100% increase	40% to 300% increase
Average rainfall	Varies around the country and with season Annual pattern of increases in west and south of New Zealand and decreases in north and east	Seasonal spring decrease in 5 upper North Island locations; seasonal spring increase in 1 site in south of South Island and 2 sites in southwest of North Island; earliest data 1960	Substantial variation around the country, increasing in magnitude with increasing emissions	Not available
Extreme rainfall	Increased extreme daily rainfall, especially where mean rainfall increases, such as on the West Coast Strongest increases in western regions and in south of the South Island Decrease in extremes in parts of north and east of the North Island	Increase in annual maximum one-day rainfall at 2 eastern South Island locations and decrease at 4 North Island locations; earliest data 1960	Not available	More than 20% increase in 99th percentile of daily rainfall in southwest of South Island (high emissions scenario)

Climate variable	Description of projected change	Timeframe of change		
		Our data to 2016	Projected changes (compared with 1995) by:	
			2040	2090
Snow and ice	Decreases Large decreases confined to high altitude or southern regions of the South Island	Glaciers lost an estimated 25% in ice volume (about 13.3 cubic kilometres); since 1977	Not available	Snow days per year reduce by 30 days or more (high emissions scenario) Globally, loss of many glaciers (high emissions scenario) (IPCC, 2014a)
Drought	Increase in severity and frequency in most areas, except for Taranaki-Manawatu, West Coast and Southland Increases most marked in already dry areas	Soils became drier at 7 of 30 sites and wetter at 1 site; since 1972	Not available	More than 20% increase in drought magnitude per year (July–June) on average
Extreme wind speeds	Most robust increases occur in southern half of the North Island and throughout the South Island Decreases in the North Island from Northland to Bay of Plenty	Decreased extreme wind speeds at nearly one-third of sites; earliest data 1972	Up to 10% or more in parts of the country	
Ocean warming (IPCC, 2013)	Globally, progressive increase. At greater depth the warming will be most pronounced for the Southern Ocean (IPCC, 2013)	Our data (satellite data from 1993) shows no trend Long-term data shows warming of 0.71°C from 1909–2009 (Mullan et al, 2010)	Best estimates of global ocean warming by 2100 are about 0.6°C (low emissions scenario) to 2.0°C (high emissions scenario) in the top 100 metres of the sea (compared with 1986–2005 climate normal) (IPCC, 2013)	
Ocean acidification (lowering pH) (IPCC, 2014a)	Globally, decreasing pH (increasing acidity) to 2100 under all emissions scenarios (IPCC, 2014a)	Decreased pH (increased acidity) of subantarctic waters since 1998	Globally a pH decline ranging from 0.06–0.07 (low emissions scenario) to 0.30–0.32 (high emissions scenario) by 2100 (IPCC, 2014a)	
Sea level rise (IPCC, 2013)	Globally, progressive increase faster than over the last century and continuing for many centuries Relative sea-level rise will vary at different locations around New Zealand	Rates of 1.4 to 2.2 mm each year depending on location (earliest data as far back as 1891 for some sites; data to 2015 for all sites)	Global projections (relative to 1986–2005): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2060: 0.2 m to 0.4 m rise • 2100: 0.3 m to 1.0 m rise (IPCC, 2013) The collapse of parts of the Antarctic ice sheets could substantially increase the upper end of this range New Zealand’s offshore sea-level rise may be up to 0.05 m more than global average sea level rise (Ackerley et al, 2013)	

Agenda Memorandum

Date 21 November 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Policy and Planning Committee**

Subject: Office of the Auditor-General: Audit of regional council progress in managing impacts on freshwater quality

Approved by: A D McLay, Director – Resource Management
B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1957363

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to update Members on an audit, currently in progress and being undertaken by the Office of the Auditor-General, of regional council progress in managing impacts on freshwater quality.

Executive summary

The Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) is conducting an audit of regional council progress in managing impacts on freshwater quality. Four regional councils, including this Council, will be audited. It follows on from an audit on freshwater management carried out in 2011.

The audit process involves a self-assessment to be completed by councils, interviews with key people within councils and key stakeholders, site visits, and potential for independent technical expertise to assess aspects of science.

A self-assessment, already completed by Council staff, has been forwarded to the OAG by their deadline of 31 October 2017. Some 57 bullet points under the four lines of inquiry that are of interest to the OAG have been addressed in the self-assessment. Reference is made to relevant documentation to provide evidence of the Council's work and to support the interview phase of the audit.

Interviews and field visits will be completed by mid-November 2017.

The OAG has advised that the report will be released in 2018.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Office of the Auditor-General: Audit of regional council progress in managing impacts on freshwater quality*;

2. receives the Council's self-assessment completed as part of the Office of the Auditor-General's audit;
3. notes that further stages of the audit process will involve interviews with key Council staff and potentially, independent technical expertise to assess aspects of science; and
4. notes that completion of the audit is timed for later in 2018.

Background

Members will recall that in 2010, the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) selected this Council, along with three other regional councils – Waikato, Horizons and Southland regional councils – to be part of a performance audit of regional council management of freshwater quality.

That audit resulted in a report, released in 2011, entitled *Managing freshwater quality: challenges for regional councils*. The 2011 report focussed on freshwater quality monitoring; councils' response to freshwater quality issues, including water quality policies; compliance monitoring and enforcement, and review, collaboration and innovative practice.

Six recommendations were made to the wider regional council sector and two recommendations were made to the Ministry for the Environment. Of significance to this Council, the 2011 audit concluded that *freshwater quality is generally being maintained in Taranaki and in some places may also be being enhanced*. Unlike the other councils, it did not make any specific recommendations for change to the way the Council managed freshwater quality, but instead highlighted some ideas or observations for discussion.

The OAG has said they want to look at the full scope of freshwater quality management, but also want to know what progress has been made since the 2011 audit.

The OAG has said that they will need to understand the regulatory context within which the audit will take place, including national regulation under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), but that their task is not to undertake an audit of implementation of the NPS-FM.

There are four lines of inquiry to the current audit:

- How well have the four regional councils developed and adopted specific objectives for the quality of their freshwater?
- Do the four regional councils know the quality of their freshwater through effective freshwater quality monitoring, analysis and reporting systems?
- Do the four regional councils take effective action to manage the impacts on freshwater quality?
- Do the four regional councils take opportunities to assess and improve their performance towards meeting freshwater quality objectives?

The OAG will be looking for learnings that can be applied across all councils and to identify those things that can be enhanced. They will be looking for evidence-based decisions, interventions and reports but do not want to be inundated with data and will not be doing an audit of data requirements as such.

The audit process will involve a self-assessment to be completed by councils, interviews with key people within councils and key stakeholders, site visits, and potential for independent technical expertise to assess aspects of science.

Self-assessment

The purpose of the self-assessment is to set the scene for later stages of the audit. It will help the OAG understand what we are doing and why. It will provide information for the OAG to inquire further, if necessary, on matters of interest or concern at later stages of the audit, including their field visit to Taranaki.

A copy of the self-assessment, which was completed by Council staff and sent to the OAG by their deadline of 31 October 2017, is attached for Members' information.

Members will see from the attached, that the four lines of inquiry mentioned above have specific criteria under each line of inquiry that the OAG are seeking council feedback on. In all, there are 15 subheadings and 57 bullet points under all four lines of inquiry that are of interest to the OAG. In this way, the OAG envisages that the self-assessment criteria will provide the Council with an opportunity to evaluate its performance, provide insight into the specific areas their audit will focus on, and guide the Council in collecting the most relevant documentary evidence to support the interview phase of the audit.

They have specifically asked us to indicate in the self-assessment:

- how you judge your own performance in fulfilling the criteria (whether not at all, fully or exceeding);
- examples of work you have done which could demonstrate this;
- examples of any planned work that relates to the criteria;
- details of major success in specific areas;
- any perceived risks; and
- relevant documents you hold which provides evidence of this work.

Members will see from the attached self-assessment that close and comprehensive monitoring of all aspects of the Council's freshwater management policies and programmes are fundamental to the Council's approach to freshwater quality. As Members are well aware, the Council's comprehensive, region-wide state of the environment monitoring programmes established in the mid 1990s have produced results over the last few years that are the best they have ever been. Furthermore, most measures sit at or above national guidelines or relevant comparisons.

Also, as Members are aware, compliance monitoring of resource consents has long been a focus and a priority of the Council and its predecessors. The conditions of resource consents are strictly monitored and enforcement action is taken to ensure compliance. Every year the Council issues more abatement notices requiring resource consent holders to take action than any other region. As we have pointed out to the OAG, this is not a source of pride, but is simply a reflection of the attitude of successive Councils that if we are going to have a regulatory regime of rules and consents in place we must also have all the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms that go with that - and use them. We simply cannot have one without the other.

Compliance rates are also very high. Good working relationships with all our major stakeholders, including resource consents holders, play a key role in this. For example, farm

dairy effluent compliance rates are consistently in the mid-90% with annual inspections of all farm dairy effluent disposal systems with advice given on good treatment and disposal methods.

We have provided details of our flagship riparian management programme that continues to go from strength-to-strength. We are confident that the results of this award-winning, voluntary scheme are now beginning to be reflected in our state of the environment monitoring results.

We have taken a collaborative approach to policy development, consulting very early on with all interests in freshwater before embarking on formal statutory RMA processes. Freshwater objectives are clearly spelt out in our plans and these are monitored to track progress towards achieving them. Regular review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the plans are carried out. Members are aware of proposals in the *Draft Freshwater and Land Management Plan* to bring about further improvements in freshwater quality, when the plan is formally notified. This will include provisions to regulate for riparian management on the intensively farmed ring plain.

In the meantime, we released our requirements for good farm management in Taranaki document which will see significant gains in freshwater quality delivered through the resource consent process, including the progressive shift from disposal of treated farm dairy effluent to water, to disposal to land in all but exceptional circumstances.

We have taken some time to spell out some of these and other significant changes or refinements that have occurred in the Council's approach to freshwater management since 2011.

In terms of perceived risks, we have pointed to interventions at the national level that could result in perverse outcomes for the Taranaki region.

Interviews and field visits

OAG staff plan to visit the region from the 13 – 17 November 2017 and conduct several interviews with senior Council staff. They also plan to interview or hold workshops with a number of key stakeholders including iwi, Fish and Game, Federated Farmers and district councils.

The Council has also organised several field visits for OAG staff while they are in Taranaki. They will view a farm riparian programme, a hydrocarbon exploration/production well site, and an industrial catchment to view first hand, water quality management practices.

Next steps

The OAG has advised that their report will be released in 2018. We do not know at this stage whether we will get to comment on a draft before it is released but that is normal or standard practice in cases such as this.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Attachments

Document 1956273: OAG water quality – Taranaki Regional Council self-assessment report (covering email) and Document 1945684: OAG self-assessment – managing impacts on freshwater quality.

Kathryn Van Gameren

From: Gary Bedford
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2017 4:30 PM
To: brent.burton@oag.govt.nz
Cc: Joe Mack; Georgie Craw (Georgie.Craw@oag.govt.nz); Jo Sheffield (Jo.Sheffield@oag.govt.nz)
Subject: OAG water quality- Taranaki Regional Council self-assessment report
Attachments: FRODO-#1945684-v1-OAG_Audit__Self-assessment_-_Managing_impacts_on_freshwater_quality.DOCX

Hi Brent –

Attached please find the TRC's self assessment on freshwater quality management, as requested. We have attempted to follow as far as possible the guidance you offered in section 2 of your introductory notes. We have provided a judgement of our own performance in addressing the four major lines of inquiry in the audit process, provided examples of our work along with details of major success in specific areas (which we have highlighted and expanded on below), commented on perceived risks where relevant, and made reference to a selection of relevant documents that we hold which provide evidence of the work we have done.

We have referenced the most significant reports for either an overview of the Council's work, or for the specific case studies/success stories. These documents are being imported into DropBox as I write, and should all be available to you before the end of this week. We anticipate that as you interview us, there will be further documents that you wish to review and we'll be able to pass those over to you as well.

From the outset can I say that the management of freshwater quality in Taranaki has always been our number one priority as a Council and even before the formation of the Council in the late 80s, was a core focus of its predecessors. We also have a relatively settled land use pattern in Taranaki with dairying dominating the fertile ring plan with sheep and beef farming (with some forestry) predominating in the inland hill country. There has been minimal change in stocking intensity or in land use conversions to dairying so there is no emerging 'crisis' from rapid land use change such as have been seen elsewhere in the country. We have worked together with the community over many years to find and implement in a sustained manner the best regional solutions to water quality issues in Taranaki, and our close monitoring of progress shows that these approaches are working. Comprehensive, region-wide state of the environment monitoring programmes established in the mid 90s have produced results over the last few years that are the best they have ever been. Most measures sit at or above national guidelines or relevant comparisons. This has not come about by accident or by good luck but by a solid focus by the Council on achieving its water quality objectives and by a lot of endorsement, hard work and serious financial commitment by all sectors of the community to make it happen. Improvements in water quality are a long term goal which can extend over generations. Successive Councils have understood this and have consistently applied the full range of approaches – policies and plans, regulation, voluntary mechanisms etc – to achieving its water quality objectives. This work is prescribed and funded through the Council's Long Term Plans and Annual Plans, filtering down to its planning and day-to-day operational work with resource consent holders and farmers.

At the policy level the Council importantly has invested in on-going relationships with all major stakeholders and the community. It has worked through policy effectiveness evaluations, policy development and policy implementation, to get good understanding and buy-in from the regional community. The Council has taken a collaborative approach to policy development, consulting very early on with all interests in freshwater, before embarking on formal statutory RMA processes. This willingness to get the community on-board early on in the process has been appreciated by all involved. Even during the formal statutory process, the Council has committed much time and resources to pre-hearing consultation i.e. holding discussions with submitters prior to formal hearings in an effort to reach agreement on issues and narrow down remaining issues in contention. This has also been appreciated by submitters as the time and resource commitments to formal processes, including appeals, can be significant for all concerned. In the preparation of the Regional Fresh Water Plan there were only a small handful of appeals lodged against Council decisions and none progressed to a hearing, being resolved by negotiation.

The Council has always focused on having strong regulation in place requiring resource consents for all activities that might impact on water quality. This is backed up by pursuing positive working relationships with consent holders, maintained through regular contact. The conditions of resource consents are comprehensively and strictly monitored, and enforcement action is taken to ensure compliance. In appropriate cases the Council takes prosecutions of breaches of resource consents and the Act, and these have been successful with significant (at a national level) fines imposed. Every year the Council issues more abatement notices requiring resource consent holders to take action than any other region. This is not a source of pride but is simply a reflection of the attitude of successive Councils – that if you are going to have a regulatory regime of rules and consents in place you must have all the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms that go with that, for credibility – and use them meaningfully. In this way the Council has developed respect, trust and integrity within the regional community that has served it well in all aspects of water quality management. The community has the clear understanding that the Council is serious about good water quality.

In the resource consent process, the Council continues with its high rate of monitoring and enforcement (see above) with timely, efficient and enabling processes. All 1,721 farm dairy effluent systems are monitored annually and major consents have tailored compliance monitoring programmes. There is direct and frequent engagement with consent holders with job managers responsible for all aspects of the consent and advising consent holders of upcoming changes in policy or best practice approaches. This changes community culture and increases awareness beyond compliance. Feedback from consent holders on how the Council can deliver better value to them through compliance monitoring programmes is regularly sought. There are high rates of compliance with consent conditions.

The Council's flagship freshwater project, the Riparian Management Programme, which commenced in 1993, continues to grow from strength-to-strength. This is a totally voluntary programme which is now the largest environmental enhancement planting scheme on privately owned land in New Zealand. 99.5% of the regions 1,721 dairy farms have a Council prepared riparian management plan in place. 2,687 riparian management plans have been prepared covering over 14,464 kilometres of streambank and more than 4.66 million plants have been supplied to landowners since the scheme began. 85% of riparian plan streams are now protected by fencing and 70% by planting where recommended. The programme involves committed, active engagement with every landowner (not just passive availability) and long-term sustained investment. It has proven scientific effectiveness in freshwater quality enhancement.

All of this effort is underpinned by good research – knowing what works best in Taranaki and what does not. Matching solutions to problems, carrying out monitoring not modelling (to give real world evidence and therefore credibility), the use of non-statutory strategies (building on the Council's good relationships with the community to get things done in an efficient and effective way), good use of cost-effectiveness approaches to freshwater management and economic analysis (e.g. for the review of the Regional Fresh Water Plan) are all hallmarks of the Taranaki approach.

One of the biggest perceived risks to this approach are interventions at the national level that do not suit the Taranaki context. A one-size-fits-all mentality, unaligned with local community expectations and commitments and imposed on the community and not endorsed by it, is a significant risk, and one that could result in perverse outcomes for the region. In this respect the Council has made its views known on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). For example the requirement in the NPS-FM to have 90% of New Zealand rivers reach a 'swimmable' standard by 2040 will, in the Council's view, not be attainable in Taranaki without destocking. This will come at enormous cost to the Taranaki community. Furthermore, the standard is to apply to all rivers at or above 4th stream order, at all times of the year regardless of river flows (when people will not be swimming) and in locations where people choose not to swim. You will see in the self-assessment that Council monitoring during the bathing season at sites where people choose to swim, shows 86% of samples comply with national guidelines for recreational bathing; in most cases where they do not, this is the result of elevated *E.coli* levels as a result of resident bird populations. By way of another example that will have perverse outcomes for Taranaki, the NPS requires riparian fencing (but not planting) on larger waterbodies than that under the Council's riparian programme which covers the fencing and planting of all waterbodies. This will encourage people to do the minimum required by the NPS and not what is the right thing to do.

Finally, I would to emphasise that since the last OAG audit of the Council was completed in 2011, there has been significant changes and refinements made, to the Council's approach to freshwater management. This is part of a

'natural' process of continuous improvement which has been occurring since the Council was formed, but they are important nonetheless and the OAG perspective was a useful consideration. Some of the more significant changes are noted below and expanded on in the pages attached.

- Continuing improvement in state of the environment monitoring results across the region
- Progress made in riparian fencing and planting is evident in state of the environment monitoring results
- Further consultation with the community, iwi and stakeholders in the development and review of policy and in the resource consents process
- Specific Iwi representation on the Council's Policy and Planning and Consents and Regulatory committees
- The Council has commenced a review of its Regional Fresh Water Plan and as part of this review has signalled a progressive shift to land disposal of farm dairy effluent, the regulation of riparian fencing and planting, further regulation of wetlands protection and management, and the implementation of NPS-FM freshwater management units and associated standards, as a means to lifting targets
- The Council's 'Requirements for good farm management for Taranaki' document already require many of these changes and have been implemented using current policy and shifting community awareness
- The Council has completed economic analysis of nutrient management options in Taranaki
- Regular sampling of farm dairy effluent discharges has been introduced
- The Council has moved to separate enforcement, including decisions on prosecutions, to senior executives of the Council from governance
- The Council has increased its frequency, scope and range of delivery, for reporting water quality to its governance and community
- The Council has strengthened its scientific understanding of desirable water quality targets and limits.

Looking forward to catching up and discussing these matters further

Regards,

Gary Bedford

Director - Environment Quality

Taranaki Regional Council

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1 Introduction

We have designed this self-assessment tool to assist the Freshwater Quality Management Audit. We envision this will:

- Provide you with the opportunity to evaluate the performance of your regional council;
- Provide insight into the specific areas our audit will focus on; and
- Guide the collection of the most relevant documentary evidence to support the interview phase of the audit;

The self-assessment will help prepare all audit participants to work together effectively during the fieldwork phase.

2 What we are looking for and how to complete the self-assessment

Please provide brief responses (in two or three sentences where possible) in the relevant fields, to indicate:

- How you judge your own performance in fulfilling the criteria (not at all, partially, fully, or exceeding);
- Examples of work you have done which would demonstrate this;
- Examples of any planned work that relates to the criteria;
- Details of major success in specific areas;
- Any perceived risks; and
- Relevant documents you hold (and will forward to the audit team) which provide evidence of this work.

Note: Where you have no further information to provide, or previous answers cover your response, there is no requirement to respond to every criteria.

3 Any questions, please contact

If you need to check you are on the right track, or have any questions, please feel free to contact the audit team:

Brent Burton	Brent.Burton@oag.govt.nz	021 222 8610
Georgie Crow	Georgie.Crow@oag.govt.nz	021 244 0289
Jo Sheffield	Jo.Sheffield@oag.govt.nz	021 222 9873

Self-assessment

Line of inquiry one: How well have regional councils developed and adopted clear objectives for freshwater quality		
Audit criteria	Regional Council key observations and assessments of how they meet this criteria.	Documentary evidence which supports this audit criteria may include:
EXAMPLE: 1.2: Freshwater quality objectives are clearly documented and publically accessible.	RC fully meets this criteria. There is a section in our latest regional plan covering our three year plan and objectives for freshwater quality, following consultation with all stakeholders (including local community and Iwi). The daily monitoring and measurement workshops are a good example of current work designed to improve future data reliability.	Regional Plan, RC Website Daily water monitoring workshop package and manuals Current and future project planning documentation.
1.1: Regional councils effectively engage with communities and key stakeholders to develop freshwater quality objectives. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting priorities • Consulting with communities (including iwi and other stakeholders) • Discussing and explaining cost implications. 	The TRC fully meets this criterion. The Council maintains regular and ongoing engagement with the community and stakeholders in the development of freshwater objectives set out in both statutory and non-regulatory documents. This engagement includes setting future objectives for freshwater and the means of achieving those objectives, investigating alternative means of achieving the objectives, establishing priorities, discussing and explaining cost implications and consulting with the community. Consultation includes both informal and formal statutory opportunities for input to the policy development and resource consenting processes. It involves a range of methods to ensure input is received from all those with an interest in freshwater. These may include for example a wide range of informal consultation involving meetings or discussions, phone calls etc, to open days, workshops, hui, written feedback, through to formal submissions and hearings, and representation on Council committees.	See for example https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/ https://www.trc.govt.nz/environment/land-and-farming/farming-for-the-future/dairy-farming/dairy-effluent/

	<p>The use of a range of mechanisms to achieve its water quality objectives is a strong feature of the Council's approach. As many tools as possible are used to ensure the most effective and efficient overall approach is adopted.</p> <p>The overall approach adopted is also based on having good working relationships with all stakeholders. This in turn is founded on trust, respect and integrity developed over many years of monitoring and enforcement of resource consents which has flowed through into the policy and plan-making process.</p> <p>Our objectives, policies and programmes have been developed in close consultation with the community to reflect the particular natural, economic and social characteristics that are unique to Taranaki. Our objectives have therefore been tailored to suit local/regional conditions while at the same time ensuring sustainable management of freshwater resources. They are entirely fit for purpose and have been agreed with the Taranaki community. This is in contrast to nationally prescribed standards and targets which adopt a one-size-fits-all mentality are not suited to Taranaki conditions and have not been through a robust process of testing costs and benefits in the Taranaki context before being adopted.</p> <p>This raises a significant potential risk for the Taranaki community in that national objectives may be adopted that are inconsistent with or not supported by the local community.</p> <p>However, the Council has reflected national policy in its planning documents so far and has prepared a Progressive Implementation Programme for the review of the Regional Fresh Water Plan (RFP) as required by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).</p>	<p>Progressive Implementation Programme- Doc No 1493975</p>
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	<p>The Council's 2015-2025 Long Term Plan (LTP) and 2017-2018 Annual Plan prepared in consultation with the community under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) contain agreed levels of service (measures and targets) and programme costs, to be achieved in relation to freshwater quality. The 2016-2017 Annual Report reports to the public on the achievement of the measures and targets for the year. This makes is of fundamental importance because it makes the necessary connection between dollars spent and water quality outcomes.</p> <p>Objectives are developed through RMA plans that apply across the region and these are applied at finer spatial scales such as at the catchment level or property level where our resource consenting process and operational programmes (e.g. the Riparian Management Programme) apply.</p> <p>The Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki 2010 (RPS) contains issues, objectives, policies and methods addressing freshwater quality. Similarly, the Regional Fresh Water Plan (RFP) and Draft Freshwater and Land Management Plan (Draft FLMP Plan) contain issues, objectives, policies, methods and rules for addressing freshwater quality. These were developed through a comprehensive engagement process involving consultation on a range of technical papers, position papers, the preparation of a Draft RPS, pre-notification consultation and the formal RMA process.</p> <p>In 2017, the Council undertook an interim review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the RPS in achieving its objectives and earlier in 2008, had undertaken a similar evaluation of its primary RMA planning document, the RFP. The interim reviews, which included targeted consultation with iwi and stakeholders, concluded that both documents were largely effective but identified areas where improvements or changes could be made as part of a full review to build on the excellent progress that had</p>	<p>For LTP and Annual Plan https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/ and https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/annual-plans/</p> <p>For RMA plans https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/</p> <p>For RFP and RPS https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/</p> <p>Draft interim review of report on RPS prepared for targeted consultation: Doc No 1738236</p> <p>Final Interim review report for RPS: https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-policy-statement/</p> <p>RPS interim review: Summary of comments received and officer recommendations- Doc No 1539364</p> <p>Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki- Doc Nos 676031 and 405581</p> <p>Draft FLMP: Draft section 32 report- Doc No 1629053</p>
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	<p>been so far.</p> <p>Since the 2011 Audit undertaken by the OAG, the Council has embarked on a full review of its RFWP. The RFWP sets objectives, policies, standards and rules governing freshwater management in Taranaki. As with the preparation of the RPS, the Council's approach to the review of the RFWP (and reviews of all its plans) is one of close consultation and collaboration with the community.</p> <p>Over the last four years the Council has worked very closely with local and national stakeholders on the review of the RFWP. It has prepared a Communications Plan and an Engagement Plan as part of the review process. The Council has also released a number of discussion papers on various topics, (including future directions for the management of farm dairy effluent and managing diffuse source discharges) and has invited informal comment from key stakeholders and the community. A number of short (1 or 2 page) summary leaflets were also prepared and made available on the Council's website and sent to key stakeholders throughout 2014 – 2015.</p> <p>A Draft FLMP was put together and further comment, feedback and discussion sought from the community towards the end of 2015. The provisions of the Draft FLMP were informed through the early establishment of a stakeholder focus group to consider major changes in policy direction and to continue dialogue with major sector interests during development of the Draft. The Council has further considered and consulted on the implications for the community of revised freshwater objectives, including economic, social and cultural costs. This information forms part of the section 32 RMA analysis of costs and benefits.</p>	<p>For Draft FLMP, discussion papers and technical reports, and information sheets see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/water-and-soil-plan-review/</p> <p>Communication Plan for review of Freshwater Plan- Doc No.1226703</p> <p>Freshwater Plan Review-Engagement Plan Doc No.1472735</p>
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	<p>Key documents around development of the FLMP have included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • background discussion documents of objectives, policies and methods for major issues associated with freshwater management • economic and other intervention options for achieving the objectives • the stakeholder and regional community engagement and outreach process for collaboratively identifying and developing agreed objectives • efficient and effective means of implementation, both regulatory and non-regulatory. <p>The Council has many years experience in resource consent monitoring and enforcement extending over the last 30 years or more. We have always focused on developing close and ongoing relationships with consent holders to ensure high levels of compliance with resource consents but we have also had a strong enforcement policy. This has been essential for developing trust, respect and integrity with respect to the resource consents process, and which has proven beneficial to all concerned in other aspects of freshwater quality management.</p> <p>We have attached our Resource Consent Procedures document which sets out the Council's policy and procedures with respect to processing resource consent applications (this document is currently under review). The Council routinely uses pre-hearing consultation and engagement to identify and set conditions that, amongst other things, sets freshwater quality limits that will achieve freshwater quality objectives. This pre-hearing process typically extends into the local community well beyond the 'affected party' requirements of the RMA. Compliance monitoring programmes incorporate ongoing engagement to ensure discharge permit conditions are being met and</p>	<p>See https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/water-and-soil-plan-review/</p> <p>Resource Consents Procedures Document (Doc No. 1046326)</p>
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	<p>to encourage performance well beyond strict compliance.</p> <p>We have attached reports (Doc Nos 1818870, 1877374, 1950358) which provide an outline of our annual inspection and compliance monitoring regime for our 1,721 dairy farms. All farms are inspected every year, with follow-up inspections in the case of potential non-compliance. For the year ending 30 June 2017, the non-compliance rate was 7.4% for dairy farms. This included all instances of non-compliance, including minor non-compliance. Only 1% of dairy farms had significant non-compliance. The Council took appropriate enforcement action in these cases. The inspection programme includes a schedule of sampling of discharges and receiving waters where applicable.</p> <p>Also attached are documents (Doc Nos 1913077, 1381790) that set out the design and delivery of our industrial/catchment compliance monitoring programmes. These are site specific and each reflect the particular requirements and context of the individual consent holder.</p> <p>Consultation occurs with consent holders, industrial site users and dairy farmers on costs and charging during monitoring inspections, but also through the reporting, estimate and invoicing process, in the interests of transparency, accountability and cost-effectiveness. Consultation also occurs with iwi during environmentally significant incidents and prosecutions.</p> <p>The Council also adopts a number of major non-regulatory measures to achieve its water quality objectives. The Riparian Management Programme and the Sustainable Land Management Programme are property specific planning programmes prepared in collaboration with landowners to manage land use effects on water quality. Appropriate standards for implementation of riparian management were developed with a stakeholder group comprising representatives of</p>	<p>Enforcement Provisions and Procedures - Doc No. 1818870</p> <p>Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed) – Doc No. 1877374</p> <p>Letter and attached documents sent to farm dairy effluent consent holders – Doc No 1950358</p> <p>PowerPoint Compliance Monitoring 2017 - Doc No.1913077</p> <p>Consent and compliance annual report 2014 - Doc No.1381790</p> <p>Iwi impact statement for prosecution - Doc No. 1932389</p> <p>TRC's charging regime, including fixed fees and fixed initial deposit charges for activities with tailored compliance monitoring programmes (see LTP/AP Schedule of Charges).</p> <p>TRC sends detailed estimates to consent holders as part of the annual planning process (refer Doc Nos. 1820308 and 1820516)</p> <p>Field calibration for riparian standard - Doc No. 1742957</p> <p>Consultation group ppt. Doc No. 1773062</p> <p>Summary of riparian standard adopted ppt - Doc</p>
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	<p>leading farmers, consultants and industry representatives. One-on-one feedback from individual farmers was also sought. Throughout these discussions, the cost implications relative to the standard adopted were explained (see section 1.3 for further discussion of the riparian management programme).</p> <p>Monitoring of these programmes is showing that the Council is achieving excellent results in maintaining and improving freshwater quality throughout Taranaki, especially in the primary measure of stream ecosystem health. Section 2 has more details on our various monitoring programmes.</p> <p>On a day-to-day basis there is regular and ongoing contact with land occupiers, resource users and other stakeholders on freshwater quality objectives.</p> <p>See also sections 2, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>No. 1808836</p>
<p>1.2: Freshwater quality objectives are clearly documented and publically accessible.</p>	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The TRC's freshwater quality objectives are clearly documented and publically accessible. The Council's freshwater quality objectives are set out in a number of hard copy publications, on our website or in digital form and vary in format, style etc depending on the audience. Copies are available free of charge in both hardcopy, electronic forms and on the Council's website.</p> <p>The Council's 2015-2025 LTP and 2017-2018 Annual Plan prepared under the LGA also set out measures and targets to be achieved in relation to freshwater quality. The 2016-2017 Annual Report reports to the public on the achievement of the measures and targets for the year.</p> <p>The RPS sets out freshwater quality objectives. The RFWP also contains freshwater quality objectives in section 6 of the Plan. The objectives are narrative objectives and are easy to understand. Surface water and</p>	<p>For policy and plans generally see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/</p> <p>For environmental monitoring technical reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/environmental-monitoring-technical-reports/</p> <p>For consent compliance monitoring reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/consent-compliance-monitoring-reports/</p> <p>For the state of the environment report https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/state-of-the-environment-report-2015/</p>

	<p>groundwater reference guidelines for quality are also set out in the RFWP.</p> <p>The consultation documents for the review of the RFWP clearly outline what the Council proposes in relation to freshwater quality objectives. The Draft FLMP incorporates both narrative and numeric objectives addressing freshwater quality. These are set out in section 4 and Schedule 2 of the Plan.</p> <p>The Council's objectives are conveyed to resource users and landowners. For example, the Council's requirements in relation to resource consent matters are routinely made known to applicants prior to application and at the time of change or renewal of resource consents and when monitoring reports are prepared and made public. The Council's Land Management Team conveys core messages with respect to the Council's riparian and sustainable land management programmes one-on-one with landowners in conjunction with a Communications strategy. Planholders that are not meeting implementation expectations are sent a letter to recommend they improve performance. This has resulted in positive responses from landowners even though there was a risk of resentment. Each year the land management team make close to 10,000 personal contacts with plan holders.</p> <p>A booklet on good farm practices has been sent to all rural boxholders which explains riparian and wetland objectives and expectations. Land Management staff are explaining these expectations through a discussion point list. In addition, the objectives are clearly communicated to the public in the 'Transforming Taranaki' publication which was also sent to all rural boxholders and is on the Council's website.</p> <p>The Council's freshwater objectives are also published in a series of guideline documents targeting and distributed to particular resource users. These also provide guidance</p>	<p>For LTP and Annual Plan https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/ and https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/annual-plans/</p> <p>For RPS https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-policy-statement/</p> <p>For RFWP https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/</p> <p>For Draft FLMP https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/water-and-soil-plan-review/</p> <p>Transforming Taranaki. Doc No. 977839</p> <p>For good farm management requirements see https://www.trc.govt.nz/environment/land-and-farming/farming-for-the-future/requirements-for-good-farm-management-in-taranaki/</p> <p>See guideline documents: Doc Nos 29372, 29352, 29349.</p> <p>See also above documents, other documents on the TRC website and social media.</p> <p>Riparian comms strategy. Doc No. 1856211 Hill country comms strategy. Doc No. 1852870 Improvement letter. Doc No. 1895740</p>
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	<p>on how to achieve those objectives. The guides set out in plain English the Council's expectations for freshwater quality and how it is to be managed.</p> <p>See also section 2, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>Discussion point list. Doc No. 1905320 Letter of implementation commitment. Doc No. 1948802</p>
<p>1.3: Regional councils understand how their approach (using both regulatory and non-regulatory methods) will contribute to maintaining and improving freshwater quality. This could be achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sound understanding of freshwater quality • S.M.A.R.T. objectives • Identification of appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory methods • Agreed resourcing priorities • Influencing the behaviour and improved practices of land users. 	<p>The TRC fully meets or surpasses this criterion.</p> <p>The TRC clearly understands how its approach of using both regulatory and non-regulatory methods contribute to maintaining and improving freshwater quality. The criteria listed under the bullet points in 1.3 are all used and applied by the TRC in freshwater quality management.</p> <p>The Council has a very good understanding of the influences on freshwater quality and of mitigation techniques (see supporting documentary evidence). This is backed up by the Council's comprehensive state of the environment monitoring programme, staff expertise, external peer reviews of water quality, assessments by external parties (e.g. NIWA for the Waiokura catchment research, GNS for groundwater processes etc).</p> <p>The Council's 2015-2025 LTP and 2017-2018 Annual Plan contain S.M.A.R.T. freshwater quality targets. These targets are aligned with the narrative objectives in the RFWP. The Draft FLMP contains a mix of narrative and S.M.A.R.T objectives. These plans also identify community agreed resourcing priorities to be applied to the Council's various regulatory and non-regulatory programmes.</p> <p>The Council's RMA policy documents contain a broad range of methods – both regulatory and non-regulatory. The RFWP contains such methods to highlight the importance of a broad suite of non-regulatory (as well as regulatory) interventions to achieve freshwater outcomes. Of particular note are references to the Taranaki Riparian Management Programme and Sustainable Land Management Programme (see below).</p>	<p>For the state of the environment report https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/state-of-the-environment-report-2015/</p> <p>For LTP and Annual Plan https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/ and https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/annual-plans/</p> <p>See all other documents referred to in section 1.1 and 1.2 above.</p> <p>Research (GB)- Waiokura catchment - Doc Nos 1297289, 1851841, 1850680; McDowell - Doc Nos 1851688, 1850680; NIWA 1933308; MPI PSSR Doc No. 1880770 (pg 49) DoC/MfE - Doc Nos 1748813, 1741609 <i>E coli</i> DNA - Doc Nos 1930831, 1930827 Also LUWQ2017 – Doc Nos 1760825, 1866569</p>

	<p>More recently, the Council has consulted on a Draft FLMP that builds on community efforts to maintain and enhance freshwater quality including diverting farm dairy effluent to land and completing the exclusion of livestock and planting of riparian margins on intensively farmed land. These mitigation measures are to be 'transitioned' with added compliance costs to resource users to be imposed over the life of the Plan. As part of the Plan review to date, other mitigation measures were also carefully considered (e.g. nutrient caps) but dismissed, having regard to the high community costs for minimal environmental benefit) plus the enforcement issues associated with the use of OVERSEER within a regulatory framework.</p> <p>At the resource consenting level in response to both the review of the RFWP and ongoing collection of water quality information, a priority of the Council is now working with consent holders to improve their practices. As previously noted, this includes requiring a transition for dairy farmers from discharge to water, to discharge to land except in exceptional circumstances where for example, high rainfall and drainage density and/or topography limit disposal to land.</p> <p>Farm dairy discharges are already being required to discharge to land as resource consents are renewed. In many cases a transition period is provided for to allow farmers to make necessary adjustments to the new regime e.g. the need to change or upgrade their waste treatment and disposal systems.</p> <p>This policy shift is being applied across the board. See for example attached reports on changing behaviours in small Taranaki industry, the New Plymouth District Council Inglewood wastewater treatment plant report and the Lepper piggery report.</p> <p>Land management activities continue to be a focus with an increased emphasis on the implementation of property</p>	<p>Copy of discharge to land with contingency to discharge to water consent Doc No. 1874031</p> <p>Agenda Item: Changing Behaviours in small Taranaki industry Doc No.1871086. Refer Doc No. 1955929 Agenda Item: NPDC Inglewood Wastewater Treatment Plant Doc No.1916056 Refer Doc No. 1955929</p>
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	<p>plans by land users. Riparian buffers regarded as an effective solution to addressing water quality contamination from runoff through intensive farming. Additionally the loss of soil in the hill country through accelerated erosion and its effect on water quality is being addressed through farm planning and the enrolment of land owners in the South Taranaki Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS).</p> <p>The TRC's flagship Riparian Management Programme is a world-class, award-winning voluntary programme specifically designed to Taranaki conditions and aimed at adoption by landowners of measures to address diffuse source impacts on water quality on the intensively farmed Taranaki ring plain. It is the largest environmental enhancement planting scheme on privately owned land in New Zealand. As at 30 June 2017 some 99.5% of the region's approximately 1,721 dairy farms had a Council prepared riparian management plan in place. A total of 2,687 riparian management plans in total cover 14,464 kilometres of streambank. In the last year 363,525 plants were grown on contract and ordered by landowners. To date, more than 4.66 million plants have been supplied to landowners since the scheme began in the early 1990s. 85% of riparian plan streams are now protected by fencing and 70% by vegetation where recommended.</p> <p>The Council's planning phase is now largely completed and the focus is strongly on encouraging and assisting plan holders to implement the fencing and planting recommendations within their riparian plans. The Council anticipates that at current rates of fencing and planting the task will be nearing completion on dairying land in Taranaki by 2020 by which time the Council proposes a regulatory response (through the RFWP review) to bring about final and complete implementation of the programme. (We note that introducing regulation for the riparian management programme was something that had been noted for the attention of the Council in the OAG's</p>	<p>Lepper Piggery Report Doc No.1955929</p> <p>Riparian Implementation Strategy. Doc No. 618730</p> <p>STRESS application Doc No. 1420410</p>
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	<p>2011 report).</p> <p>The Council's Wetland Programme also recognises benefits of encouraging landowners to enhance wetlands for improving hydrological and water quality conditions.</p> <p>The supporting section 32 analysis for the Draft FLMP identifies the benefits and costs of these methods and draws conclusions about their appropriateness for efficient and effective application in the Taranaki context.</p> <p>The Council undertakes research-based assessments of interventions and initiatives in order to understand drivers of water quality, to identify methods to improve water quality taking into account demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness, to determine priorities for resourcing and promotion, and to pursue clearly identified best land use practices.</p> <p>Primary activity sectors in Taranaki are dairying, pastoral hillcountry farming, and the oil and gas sector. Without exclusion, research/commissioned studies have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a longitudinal study of a test catchment, looking at multiple landuse/land management interventions (part of a national research project) (NIWA/AgResearch/TRC) • modelling of effectiveness of region-specific versus NPS riparian requirements (Lincoln-TRC) • comprehensive evaluation of effects of TRC riparian programme on stream community health, <i>E. coli</i>, and nutrients (NIWA-TRC) • stakeholder/advisory group membership for Primary Sector Science Roadmap (MPI) and Conservation and Environment Science Roadmap (DoC/MfE) with regard to exhaustive evaluation of future research needs and delivery • source identification of bacteriological sources and hence options for elimination 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• national level investment prioritisation for water quality: 'Our Land and Water' National Science Challenge; SSIF (LCR, NIWA, ESR)• multiple hydrocarbon-related studies: hydrogeological risks, radioactivity, induced seismicity, landfarming and soil, oilfield wastes toxicity, groundwater aquifer surveys throughout Taranaki. <p>Research risks include unanticipated imposition of national interventions that have not been validated under regional conditions (example: OVERSEER nitrogen loss model) or investment in research for potential management options rendered redundant by national regulation (forthcoming nutrient limits?)</p> <p>See also sections 1.1, 1.2 and sections 2, 3 and 4.</p>	
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Line of inquiry two: Do regional councils know the quality of their freshwater through effective freshwater quality monitoring, analysis, and reporting systems?		
Audit criteria	Regional Council key observations and assessments of how they meet this criteria.	Documentary evidence to support the audit criteria
<p>2.1: Regional councils collect the right information to monitor freshwater quality in a timely manner. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information that is required by regulation or obligation • Information that is valuable / appropriate to managing impacts to freshwater quality. 	<p>The TRC fully meets or surpasses this criterion.</p> <p>The Council collects all information required by regulation. Some of the Council's water quality monitoring programmes will require some adjustments to fully implement the NPS-FM and the Council is progressively implementing these and will have these in place by the timelines set in the NPS-FM.</p> <p>The Council also collects information that is valuable or appropriate to managing the impacts to freshwater quality and that is considered by the Council to be necessary for both public understanding of water quality and for rigorous scientific analysis to meet specific Taranaki needs, conditions and circumstances.</p> <p>The Council employs qualified inspectors, scientists and technicians to collect and interpret data to produce the right information in a timely manner. There is external peer review of programme design and results interpretation. The Council runs inter-council checks for farm dairy inspections.</p> <p>We collect and analyse samples during the annual dairy round sampling and when sampling industrial sites. We also collect information required on resource consent conditions and collect information by agreement from dairy farm disclosure of self-monitoring (e.g. PKW Farms).</p> <p>Monitoring of the Council's riparian programme is undertaken annually and the results entered in to the Council's GIS system. Implementation is ground-truthed and not self-reported by farmers. Property reports on implementation status are produced using "Map Book".</p>	<p>For environmental monitoring technical reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/environmental-monitoring-technical-reports/</p> <p>For consent compliance monitoring reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/consent-compliance-monitoring-reports/</p> <p>Laboratory database Doc No.1740026 - Report for RMG, results of 2016 dairy audit</p> <p>Doc No.1944239 & Doc No.1941885 - Letters of advice to consent holder (compliant and non-compliant result)</p> <p>Doc No.1950404 - Email from PKW farms</p> <p>For the riparian programme see Monitoring Map Book example Doc No. 1679975.</p>

	<p>This information is important for correlating water quality improvements with actions on the ground. There may be some risks that all works may not be recorded because a plan holder is not monitored for the year. However, this would be picked up the following year.</p> <p>The Council provides training and technical advice and activities for building Maori capacity as part of a Cultural Health Monitoring Programme. The Council is involved in providing training and technical advice on stream health monitoring for physical habitat assessment, water quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring. The programme uses the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK) designed by the Council to allow community groups to collect robust and meaningful scientific data on stream health.</p> <p>In the past year, this programme has been rolled out to a second iwi, and is planned to be extended to a further iwi by the end of the year. Several other groups are also working on the development of a Cultural Health Index alongside SHMAK monitoring. The intention is that reporting by iwi can be integrated into the Council's environmental reporting to the community.</p> <p>See also sections 1.3, 2.2, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>See Consents & Regulatory Committee agendas – refer www.trc.govt.nz</p>
<p>2.2: Regional councils monitor freshwater quality to identify trends and track progress towards objectives. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking progress towards goals/objectives • Comparing actual results with their expectations • Having quality control process to assure the accuracy of the 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Council's 2015-2025 LTP and 2017-2018 Annual Plan prepared in consultation with the community under the LGA, set out measures and targets to be achieved in relation to freshwater quality. The 2016-2017 Annual Report reports to the public on the achievement of the measures and targets for the year.</p>	<p>For LTP and Annual Plan https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/ and https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/annual-plans/</p>

<p>information.</p>	<p>The Council's State of the Environment water quality monitoring programme has been in place since 1995. It involves about 23 programmes dealing with ecological health of water bodies and the physicochemical state and use of freshwater. The programme has been in place for a sufficiently long enough time period to allow statistically robust trend analysis to be undertaken of the data yielding high quality information on both the current state and trends in freshwater quality. With rare exception monitoring trends are showing improvement in a number of variables measured and in others, no statistically significant change.</p> <p>The Council's freshwater monitoring has been subject to independent review and has been found to fully meet criteria for state of the environment monitoring of freshwater quality taking account of Taranaki's different catchment areas, land uses, climatic and geological/topographic features.</p> <p>Major results from the 2016/2017 year were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCI values: these were determined for 59 regionally significant sites and trend analysis for the period from 1995 to 2016 was undertaken and reported on. Results show 30 of 53 sites with statistically significant or very significant trends of improvement and one with a significant or very significant decline (six sites could not be trended due to the shorter duration of monitoring at these sites). • Periphyton: the latest trend results (2002-2016) for the extent of long filaments and mats shows stability (90%) or improvement (10%) for both measures. 94% of surveys for all sites over the last two years (2014-2016) met national periphyton guidelines. • Bacteriology: the same sites that were compliant in 2003/2004 were also compliant in 2016/2017 	<p>See cover memo (Doc No 1910813) and master list of State of the environment monitoring programmes for 2017-2018 (Doc No 1910812)</p> <p>For the state of the environment report see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/state-of-the-environment-report-2015/</p> <p>A NIWA review of the Council's freshwater monitoring programme formed part of the AOG audit in 2011.</p> <p>In the preparation of the state of the environment report 2015, Graham McBride from NIWA undertook an independent review of the draft surface water quality chapter (see Doc Nos 1480673, 1484279, 1494277, 1494576, 1557367, and 1557537).</p> <p>Gil Zemansky from PRIME Hydrogeology Ltd undertook an independent review of the draft chapter on groundwater (see Doc Nos 1421486, and 1421502).</p> <p>John Stark from the Cawthron Institute and Stark Consulting undertook an independent review of the Council's Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) monitoring programme and results (see Doc No 1569745 and hardcopy project folders 66 and 88.</p> <p>Approach to compliance monitoring Doc No. 1913077</p>
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	<p>(6 sites). Another 5 sites in 2016/2017 had only one non-compliant sample (in the 2016-2017 year 86% of samples complied with national guidelines for recreational bathing and in most cases where there was non-compliance this was the result of elevated <i>E.coli</i> levels as a result of bird populations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrients: the number of sites showing stability or improvement is increasing over time. Since 1995, 69% of nutrient measures have been stable or improving with 84% of nutrient measures stable or improving over more recent years. • BOD: 9 sites of 11 show stable results against 1995 baselines and all sites are stable over recent years. <p>In 2011, the Council commissioned Pattle Delamore Partners to review our groundwater state of the environment monitoring programmes (see Pattle Delamore report attached). A number of the recommendations in the report have been implemented (see groundwater state of the environment monitoring reports attached).</p> <p>In addition, the Council undertakes extensive compliance monitoring and public reporting of resource consents. It regards compliance monitoring (and subsequent enforcement action when necessary) as a critical element in freshwater quality management and one that underpins the integrity of regional plans and the consents issued under them.</p> <p>The Council has established different monitoring programmes suited to the use ranging from one-off compliance monitoring to ensure compliance with resource consent conditions to annual monitoring of all farm dairy discharge consents (1,721 consents) and other agricultural consents, to over 190 tailored compliance monitoring programmes of major industries and resource</p>	<p>Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd, 2011. Audit of the Taranaki Regional Council's state of the environment groundwater programme (Doc No 962087).</p> <p>State of the environment groundwater monitoring reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrates in shallow groundwater 2002 to 2012 (Doc No 1378736) • Groundwater levels 1989-2013 (Doc No 1543319) • Groundwater quality 2016-2017 (Doc No 1886724) <p>For consent compliance monitoring reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/consent-compliance-monitoring-reports/</p> <p>Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed) Doc No.1877374</p>
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	<p>users.</p> <p>Approximately 3,300 inspections are carried out annually as a result of these programmes.</p> <p>Comprehensive compliance monitoring is important to the Council, the community and the regional economy for a number of reasons. It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhances community standing and reputation for companies who attain good or high levels of environmental performance; • makes consent renewal processes more efficient and less costly for businesses; • engenders a respectful and responsible regard for the Taranaki region's environment and our management of its natural resources; and • increases the Council's accountability and transparency. <p>In the 2016/2017 year 92% of significant industrial point sources attained a 'good' or 'high' level of environmental performance.</p> <p>In relation to farm dairy effluent monitoring, we analyse dairy effluent monitoring results and track land application sites to achieve our objectives. The sample results are compared with resource consent conditions. Internal and external quality control measures are in place.</p> <p>In 2016/2017 93% of farm dairy effluent systems were compliant with their resource consents. Only 1% of dairy farms had significant non-compliance.</p> <p>Compliance monitoring of resource consents is backed up by a rigorous enforcement regime with the issuing of abatement notices, infringement notices and prosecutions for those who do not comply. For the year ending 30 June 2017, the Council issued 191 abatement notices and 55</p>	<p>For consent compliance monitoring reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/consent-compliance-monitoring-reports/</p> <p>See the Council's IRIS database.</p> <p>Laboratory database</p> <p>Letters of advice to consent holder (compliant and non-compliant result) – Doc Nos 1944239 & 1941885</p> <p>Enforcement Provisions and Procedures - Doc No. 1818870</p>
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	<p>infringement notices. Compliance officers also respond to unauthorised incidents and take appropriate action. Two prosecutions were initiated during the 2016/2017 as a result of unauthorised incidents. An average of three prosecutions are processed through the system at any one time.</p> <p>Annual or biennial compliance monitoring reports compare actual results with consent conditions and rate compliance as either excellent, good, fair or poor. The reports, where relevant, will also detail present performance relative to historic performance. These reports are placed before the Council for response.</p> <p>For the riparian management programme, implementation progress for individual planholders is monitored so that trends for meeting or not meeting the 2020 targets can be determined.</p> <p>Trends in freshwater quality are tracked to determine progress towards the achievement of freshwater quality objectives (see for example state of the environment monitoring reports which are prepared every 5 years and Effectiveness and Efficiency reports of RMA plans).</p> <p>Reports compare actual results with objectives as outlined in our plans.</p> <p>The various monitoring programmes are underpinned by quality control processes that ensure compliance with nationally and internationally recognised protocols for data collection and analysis (see section 2.3).</p> <p>See also sections 1.3, 2.3, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>For consent compliance monitoring reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/consent-compliance-monitoring-reports/</p> <p>See also STDC Eltham Central Landfill Doc No.1919218 and NPDC Water Supplies Doc No.1907741</p> <p>For the state of the environment report https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/state-of-the-environment-report-2015/</p> <p>Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Regional Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki- Doc Nos 676031 and 405581</p>
<p>2.3: Regional councils effectively analyse monitoring results. This could be through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear, well-documented analysis 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Council effectively analyses monitoring results (see</p>	

<p>methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assurance and control • Risk analysis • An understanding of the local and geographic context (e.g. known land and geological features) • Investigations of unexpected results • Clear escalation guidelines to address emerging risks or major incidents. 	<p>section 2.2). There is a clear link to the Council's enforcement policy.</p> <p>It has clear and well documented monitoring methods that comply with nationally recognised protocols for data collection, analysis, quality assurance and control and risk analysis. The Council's laboratory is IANZ Accredited for the water chemistry analysis it undertakes, there is external peer review of procedures and interpretation annually and through the 5-yearly state of the environment report preparation.</p> <p>We have documents that set out resource consent monitoring requirements and farm dairy inspections with clear links to enforcement in cases of non-compliance.</p> <p>Our state of the environment monitoring reports are aligned with best practice through Special Interest Groups (specialist technical groups) and with national reference methods (see MfE's monitoring guide).</p> <p>Monitoring procedures are adjusted to take account of local conditions and the geographic context e.g. farm dairy discharge consents to land may have a contingency discharge to water where rainfall and topography etc do not allow discharge to land all year round. Further investigation of non-compliance results occurs and follow-up enforcement action is taken if required.</p> <p>Unexpected incidents or emerging risks are managed by weekly round-table discussions, in annual reports and by job managers tasked with running the programmes and being designated points of contact in the event of major incidents or other escalation of risk.</p> <p>See also sections 1, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed) Doc No.1877374</p> <p>Copy of discharge to land with contingency to discharge to water consent – Doc No.1874031</p> <p>Consent and Regulatory Agenda (Incidents and Enforcement Summary) Doc No. 1946635</p>
<p>2.4: Regional councils know the costs of their freshwater quality program. This could be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent record of financial costs 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>Resource management costs are budgeted and reported on through LTP, Annual Plan and reporting processes.</p> <p>LTPs and Annual Plans contain specific levels of service</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic modelling of different approaches • Other modelling (e.g. cultural, social) that informs approaches and aids conversations with the community. 	<p>relating to freshwater quality management, including full monitoring and implementation costs.</p> <p>Through the RFWP review, the costs of proposed (and alternative) freshwater quality interventions and programmes were considered as part of the section 32 RMA analysis. A series of independent reports were prepared assessing the costs of mitigation options.</p> <p>An analysis occurs each year of the time commitment and charging associated with the annual dairy round monitoring inspections. Annual compliance monitoring charges, non-compliance charges and laboratory charges are set each year.</p> <p>Specific compliance programmes are re-costed annually and Council economic performance for every programme reviewed each year.</p> <p>In relation to the costs of freshwater policyoptions/provisions in relation to the FLMP see section 1.1.</p> <p>The Council has commissioned economic consultants BERL on a number of occasions to calculate the levels of community investment in water quality improvements.</p> <p>See also sections 1, 3 and 4.</p>	<p>See https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/regional-fresh-water-plan/water-and-soil-plan-review/</p> <p>Letter and attached documents sent to farm dairy effluent consent holders- Doc No.1950358</p> <p>See for example BERL (2014): Community investments in environmental improvements in Taranaki 2008-2014. Doc No 1427803</p>
<p>2.5: Regional councils report results to decision-makers. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having clear reporting guidelines • Easily understandable reports. 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>There is monthly and quarterly reporting against Annual Plan and LTP KPIs (through Opal 3), to senior executives and the Council, six-weekly reporting on incidents and compliance monitoring non-compliances and Annual reporting.</p>	<p>Consents & Regulatory Committee, Policy & Planning Committee agendas – refer www.trc.govt.nz</p>

	<p>The Council's Policy and Planning Committee consider all major freshwater policy, including its implementation and monitoring. Other aspects of the Council's freshwater quality programmes may be considered by the Consents and Regulatory or the Executive, Audit and Risk Committee which in turn are reported to and considered by the full Council. Council committees that deal with freshwater quality matters, and the full Council meet on a regular 6-weekly cycle (see Council Agendas and Minutes on the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz)</p> <p>The reports are accompanied by summary Agenda items summarising key findings and often accompanied by presentations to Councillors.</p> <p>The Council has clear reporting guidelines and reports that are easy to understand and are targeted to the needs of different audiences.</p> <p>Council agendas are advertised through the Council's website and through social media.</p> <p>See also sections 1, 3, and 4.</p>	<p>See the Council's LTPs, Annual Plans and Annual reports on the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz</p> <p>Consent and Regulatory Agenda (Incidents and Enforcement Summary) Doc No.1946635</p>
<p>2.6 Regional councils keep the community and key stakeholders well-informed. This could be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information with the public (such as results, costs, decisions, strategies, and actions) • Presenting information in a readable format • Undertaking appropriate consultation if a change in approach is being considered • Ensuring the relationships with communities are ongoing, with opportunities to express views, discuss approaches and contribute. 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Council regularly keeps the community and key stakeholders regularly informed of water quality issues and progress being made by the Council on these issues.</p> <p>This is achieved for example, by sharing information with the public, presenting information in a readable format, undertaking appropriate consultation and ensuring the relationship with the Taranaki community is ongoing with opportunities given to express views discuss approaches and contribute to policy and programme changes.</p> <p>There are many ways the Council ensures this criterion is met. These range from making its reports to the Council on policy development changes, initiatives or proposals,</p>	<p>Consent holders' feedback- compliance monitoring workshops – Doc No.1885021</p>

	<p>state of the environment monitoring (both annual, biennial and 5-year reports) compliance monitoring and many other reports, available to the public. Information is presented in a readable format through hard copy formats (full reports, summary documents, leaflets etc), the Council's website and through social media. Opportunities are provided for people to express their views and contribute to the ongoing debate on freshwater.</p> <p>The Council has a comprehensive, early engagement policy on consultation with the community where a change of approach is being considered or where a plan is due for review under the RMA. It has long taken the view that early and informal engagement on what the issues are and wide ranging discussion of options to address them will reduce the likelihood of lengthy, complex and costly involvement in formal submission and appeal processes under the RMA. This underpins the importance of maintaining good working relationships with all our stakeholders and the trust, respect and integrity that has been built up by the Council over many years.</p> <p>Other mechanisms used include web-based input, social media, working groups, stakeholder engagement meetings, pre-hearing meetings, consent holder workshops, field days, annual plan processes and community group representation on Council committees.</p> <p>There are six-weekly reporting on incidents and non-compliance and a letter is sent annually to farmers explaining the compliance regime for farm dairy effluent.</p> <p>See also sections 1, 3 and 4.3.</p>	<p>Consent and Regulatory Agenda (Incidents and Enforcement Summary) Doc No.1946635 Letter and attached documents sent to farm dairy effluent consent holders Doc No.1950358</p>
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Line of inquiry three: Do regional councils take effective action to manage the impacts on freshwater quality?		
Audit criteria	Regional Council key observations and assessments of how they meet this criteria.	Documentary evidence to support the audit criteria
<p>3.1: Actions are well-informed and timely. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using monitoring results to feed into regular reviews of goals and objectives. • Demonstrating a good understanding of the local context and the causes of trends • Decisions aligning with council policies, commitments and regulations • Can demonstrate how the consents they grant will affect freshwater quality • Influencing land users to improve / adapt land use practices and/or reduce impact • Influencing the behaviours of all those whose activities adversely impact freshwater quality • Writing consents in a way that can be monitored and enforced • Identifying and mitigating barriers to maintaining/improving freshwater quality • Having clearly allocated responsibilities within the council • Effectively co-ordinating community/stakeholder efforts. 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Council's actions are well-informed and timely. Each of the bullet points listed can be verified by reference to relevant documentation.</p> <p>For example, the state of the environment report demonstrates a good understanding of the local context and the causes of trends in freshwater quality. Barriers to improving freshwater quality are identified along with how change can be effected. The report also demonstrates how land users can improve or adapt their land use practices to reduce impacts on freshwater quality. Multiple outcomes are also recognised and actively pursued. For example, The Council's Riparian Management Programme has had positive biodiversity outcomes as well water quality benefits and these have been enthusiastically received.</p> <p>The requirements of policy documents prepared under the RMA are translated into plain English guidelines that set out what the Council's requirements for freshwater management are and how they are to be achieved.</p> <p>Monitoring results are feed into regular reviews of regional policies and plans. Interim and full reviews are conducted of the RPS and the RFWP. These reviews make use of state of the environment monitoring results.</p> <p>There are annual reviews of state of the environment monitoring programmes and compliance monitoring programmes.</p> <p>The Council has good knowledge and understanding of how consents will affect freshwater quality. Consents are written in a way that can be, and are, monitored and enforced.</p>	<p>State of the environment report 2015 https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/state-of-the-environment-report-2015/</p> <p>Consent holders' feedback- compliance monitoring workshops- Doc No.1885021</p>

	<p>Monitoring of farm dairy effluent disposal systems occurs at the hardest times of year to comply (e.g. spring) and industrial inspections take place during the winter period when stormwater discharges are more likely to occur, and in summer when receiving waters offer less dilution of wastewater discharges and instream communities are under greatest biological stress.</p> <p>Timely inspections can influence land users to improve effluent disposal. In addition, effective monitoring by knowledgeable, experienced and well trained staff, and 'cold calling', can also influence behaviours.</p> <p>In the resource consents process, we ensure that consents are site-specific and have conditions that reflect the conditions of the area concerned (e.g. resource consents for the discharge of farm dairy effluent to land may have a contingency to discharge to water when conditions are not suited to land disposal).</p> <p>Emphasis is placed on the enforceability of consents i.e. conditions are informed by science work together. Annual compliance reports feed back into the consent process. There is frequent on-site contact and inspections along with designated job managers.</p> <p>Responsibilities within the Council are clearly allocated (see for example the Investigating Officer job description attached) or specific components of individual compliance monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Voluntary and educational initiatives promote the adoption of good management practices. Best management practices are promoted for dairying, riparian management and sustainable hill country farming. From time-to-time the Council undertakes or sponsors research into barriers, attitudes, culture etc to adoption of measures to improve freshwater quality.</p>	<p>Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed) – Doc No.1877374 -</p> <p>Copy of discharge to land with contingency to discharge to water consent – Doc No.1874031</p> <p>Investigating Officer job description – Doc No. 1888766</p>
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	<p>Council decisions align with council policies, commitments and regulations.</p> <p>Community/stakeholder inputs are effectively coordinated.</p> <p>See also section 1.3, 2 and 4</p>	
<p>3.2: Regional councils understand how their actions will influence freshwater quality. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the expected impacts of their actions and / or clear rationale • Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of actions and reporting this back to decision-makers • Measuring outcomes • Having a strategy in place to prioritise efforts across the region • Openness to trying new approaches, including experimenting in the face of incomplete certainty 	<p>The TRC fully meets or surpasses this criterion.</p> <p>See section 1.1 for information on how the Council's review of its RFWP leading to the preparation of the Draft FLMP demonstrates its understanding of how its actions will influence freshwater quality.</p> <p>Staff report the effectiveness of their actions to the Council through the six-weekly reporting cycle and through the Council's Annual report.</p> <p>The Council's understanding of how its actions influence water quality are also demonstrated through its monitoring and reporting on resource consents monitoring, enforcement, the production of best practice practice guidance (e.g. dairy farming, oil and gas sector), measuring outcomes and prioritising effort, for example through the LTP and Annual Plan processes.</p> <p>The Council also undertakes studies and research, engages with regional council Special Interest Groups and maintains connections with the National Science Challenge.</p> <p>We identify high risk sites such as hydrocarbon exploration sites and major roadworks, and increase monitoring of those sites if required (e.g. to once a week). In the last 5 years we have introduced more comprehensive sampling of farm dairy effluent disposal systems (this was highlighted by the OAG report in 2011 as something for the Council to consider in future) and industrial sites.</p> <p>The Council's voluntary riparian management approach achieves high levels of buy-in from landowners which will</p>	<p>Consents & Regulatory Committee, Policy & Planning Committee agendas – refer www.trc.govt.nz</p> <p>Consent holders' feedback- compliance monitoring workshops – Doc No.1885021</p> <p>Consent and Regulatory Agenda (Incidents and Enforcement Summary) Doc No.1946635</p> <p>For LTP and Annual Plan https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/ and https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/strategy-policy-and-plans/long-term-plan-20152025/annual-plans/</p> <p>Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed) Doc No.1877374</p>

	<p>result in good water quality outcomes. This is because the programme results in ownership of the work which will then become an asset to the property. Once riparian work is regarded as an asset, farmers will maintain it. There is a slight risk for those that are regulated to do it that they won't have ownership of the planting. However, the compliance component will have regular follow-ups which will require the margins to be maintained to an acceptable standard.</p> <p>Monitoring of the plan implementation is undertaken annually and the work is entered into the GIS system. Implementation is ground-truthed and not self reported by farmers. This results in true reporting which provides accuracy with implementation status. Property reports on implementation status are produced using "Map Book".</p> <p>State of the environment monitoring is reported taking implementation of the riparian management programme into account. That monitoring is showing the best results we have ever had for ecological health of water quality in Taranaki. Monitoring and research is being carried out to determine a correlation between riparian implementation and improved water quality.</p> <p>See also sections 1.3, 2 and 4.</p>	<p>Monitoring Map Book example Doc No. 1679975.</p> <p>For environmental monitoring technical reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/environmental-monitoring-technical-reports/</p>
<p>3.3: Regional councils follow up non-compliance or non-performance of regulatory consents. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectively monitoring compliance • Identifying and investigating non-compliance • Having a clear approach to regulating 	<p>The TRC fully meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Council has a very effective compliance monitoring and enforcement programme. It involves regular monitoring and enforcement according to set procedures which are clearly documented. Decisions on prosecutions are made by senior management and are not subject to perceptions of politically influence.</p>	

<p>the management of discharges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making effective decisions on non-compliance • Considering different ways to influence users to achieve compliance • Making appropriate enforcement/prosecution decisions, which are political neutral. 	<p>Resource consents are required for all farm dairy effluent discharges. Annual monitoring is undertaken of all farm dairy effluent systems according the Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (which is currently under review) to ensure consent conditions are being complied with, with follow-up monitoring at all sites where there is actual or potential non-compliance. The Council is part of the sectors National Dairy Audit programme.</p> <p>Regular monitoring occurs of industrial sites and these may range from monthly to annual monitoring of all major discharges. Tailored compliance monitoring programmes are in place for all major discharges.</p> <p>If prosecution is deemed necessary by the Compliance Manager then a detailed report is given to the Council's Chief Executive to enable him to make the decision whether to proceed with the prosecution.</p> <p>Land management monitors the riparian consent conditions imposed on planholders. Officers visit properties and inspect the works. If after the provision of information and advice, planholders fail to comply with their consents adequately, or not at all, the inspectorate team is notified to take enforcement action.</p> <p>As previously noted, the riparian programme is currently voluntary until a proposed regulatory regime is adopted in 2020 via the FLMP. An auditing process has been developed which has criteria to make effective decisions on non-compliance.</p> <p>Appropriate and effective compliance monitoring and enforcement ensures there is integrity in the implementation of policies and develops trust and respect within the community, which has direct flow-on effects into resolving submissions on consents and plans.</p> <p>See also section 1, 2 and 4.</p>	<p>Doc No.1877374 - Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed)</p> <p>Doc No.1740026 - Report for RMG, results of 2016 dairy audit</p> <p>Doc No.1818870 - Enforcement Provisions and Procedures Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme Doc No.1877374 Compliance Monitoring of Farm Dairy Systems – Letter and attachments to farmers. Doc No. 1950358 Doc No.1950691 - Memo to Chief Exec</p> <p>See IRIS database used to record and report on authorisations.</p> <p>For consent compliance monitoring reports see https://www.trc.govt.nz/council/plans-and-reports/environmental/consent-compliance-monitoring-reports/</p>
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Line of inquiry four: Do regional councils take opportunities to assess and improve their performance towards meeting freshwater quality objectives?		
Audit criteria	Regional Council key observations and assessments of how they meet this criteria.	Documentary evidence to support the audit criteria
<p>4.1: Regional councils review the effectiveness of their practices, policies and processes. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing results to assess how effective their approaches are • Regularly reviewing their systems and ongoing mind-set/culture • Considering stakeholder feedback • Supporting independent reviews of their reviews. 	<p>The TRC fully meets or surpasses this criterion.</p> <p>The Council regularly reviews its policies, plans, systems, practices and processes. It considers stakeholder feedback and undertakes independent reviews of its own reviews to ensure that its review processes are appropriate and robust.</p> <p>The Council regularly reviews its plans prepared under the RMA. Interim reviews are carried out which includes targeted consultation with iwi and stakeholders. Full reviews are carried out which have involved the development and consultation on range of technical discussion papers on complex or potentially contentious matters, the preparation of draft plans and formal notification under the RMA. See section 1 for further discussion of the plan preparation and review process.</p> <p>The Council is currently reviewing its Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring programme. It continuously reviews the effectiveness of sampling of farm dairy discharges and compares annual non-compliance rates and enforcement actions over time and with other regions.</p> <p>There is regular rotating of inspecting officer monitoring catchments and assessment of monitoring officer decision-making processes. The Council is part of the Compliance and Enforcement Special Interest Group. It is also involved in national self-auditing of regional councils (which has not been audited).</p> <p>Scientific staff meet weekly to discuss monitoring programmes and delivery, to support and challenge each other and share knowledge. Consent holder feedback has been obtained through workshops.</p>	<p>Doc No 1885021- consent holders feedback – compliance monitoring workshop</p> <p>Doc No.1877374 - Farm Dairy Discharge Monitoring Programme (currently being reviewed) Doc No.1740026 - Report for RMG, results of 2016 dairy audit</p>

	<p>Consent holders of larger tailored monitoring programmes have engaged with TRC staff in stakeholder workshops (refer Doc No.1885021)</p> <p>Regular reviews are undertaken of the Enforcement Provisions and Procedures Document.</p> <p>The Council has taken the opportunity to review several aspects of its riparian management programme in recent times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to introduce regulation by 2020 • Review of riparian plan coverage in the intensively farmed area • Review of biodiversity values with riparian planting • Change in ecosystem services with a riparian management component (an independent review which supported TRC approach) • Landcare research of perception of regional councils by landowners (TRC was one of the most highly regarded regional councils in New Zealand) <p>See also sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2 and 3.</p>	<p>Doc No.1818870 - Enforcement Provisions and Procedures</p> <p>Case study on the voluntary approach undertaken by MPI (formerly MAF). Doc No. 791685</p> <p>Change in ecosystem service provision within lowland dairy landscape under different riparian margin scenarios. Doc No.1779393 Applying ecosystem services thinking to natural resource management and conservation decision making. Doc No. 1781440</p> <p>Biodiversity thesis. Doc No. 400376</p>
<p>4.2: Regional councils identify opportunities to continuously improve their approach. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing best practice with, and learning from other entities • Ensuring lessons are learned from both success and failures • Keeping abreast of industry developments and innovations • Considering other ways to influence behaviour. 	<p>The TRC fully meets or surpasses this criterion.</p> <p>The Council identifies opportunities to continuously improve its policy and approach to managing freshwater quality. This is well demonstrated in its review of the RFWP leading to the preparation of the draft FLMP. See section 1.1 for a summary.</p> <p>The Council also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaises and works with other regional councils to improve practices relating to fresh water management by attending and contributing to Special Interest Groups (e.g. Regional Managers Group, Policy SIG, Consents SIG, Compliance 	<p>Doc No.1740026 - Report for RMG, results of 2016 dairy audit</p> <p>Doc No.1955674 - Draft Agenda for CESIG meeting</p>

	<p>and Enforcement SIG, SWIM (freshwater) Group), plus other liaison with regional councils to share lessons and learnings and undertake self-auditing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissions research, or contributes to and participates in collaborative exercises with research institutes, Dairy NZ, National Science Challenge leaders and partners, and others to research develop and disseminate best practice e.g. Waiokura study, cost-benefit analysis on mitigation options for the review of the RFWP • Works with industry on compliance issues of mutual interest such as Fonterra on farm dairy effluent discharges, stock exclusion and riparian management • Undertakes regular extension programmes with sector groups and individual consent holders to discuss and disseminate best practice e.g. earthworks, roading contractors, forestry, farming groups, annual farm dairy effluent and other inspections • Has regular discussions with district councils to discuss and share matters of mutual interest concerning freshwater management (e.g. implications of the Havelock North drinking water inquiry) • Reviews the effectiveness of consent conditions through discussions with stakeholders in the consent process • Holds regular and ongoing discussions with riparian and hill country planholders on progress and the effectiveness of property plan implementation measures. <p>Dairy NZ and Fonterra visited the TRC to learn how we have achieved implementation of the riparian programme. They modelled their riparian planner on our 'Map Book'.</p> <p>TRC has shared its learnings on the riparian programme</p>	<p>See minutes of meeting with district councils to discuss drinking water processes, standards etc: Doc No 1884585</p> <p>Doc No.1144669 Regional Action Plan report.</p> <p>Doc No.943899 NZARM conference programme</p>
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	<p>with other councils e.g. NZARM conference hosted in Taranaki and featuring riparian management so that other councils could learn first hand why it has been so successful. There have also been regular visits from other councils to learn about the riparian programme e.g. Hawkes Bay, Manawatu-Whanganui, Southland, Waikato regional councils.</p> <p>The TRC has kept abreast of the development of good farm management practices and has prepared its good farm management requirements to reflect this along with its own expectations. The Council has signalled to the community that it will introduce regulation of riparian management after 2020 targeting those (approximately 5% of farmers) who have chosen not to become part of the voluntary programme.</p> <p>An auditing system with criteria has been developed for the riparian management programme to undertake audits of riparian management in line with a regulatory regime after 2020. A new software package has been designed and built for the TRC.</p> <p>Opportunities for the capture and protection of regionally significant wetlands have been recognised through the riparian and hill country programmes to influence behaviour change. This included both regulatory and non-regulatory measures.</p> <p>The Council is part of National Dairy Audit (see previous comment).</p> <p>We undertake debriefing of all major enforcement actions and outcomes (for example Doc No)</p> <p>We attend ongoing training in industry practices and enforcement.</p> <p>Staff attend and present at national and international</p>	<p>Doc No.1830260 - Taranaki Regional Council Requirements for Good Farm Management in Taranaki booklet Doc No.1737100 Compliance certificate inspection checklist. Doc No.1797164 Council agenda memo. Doc No.1931038 monitoring software specifications. Doc No.1931039 auditing software wireframe. Doc No.1835328 Financial contribution policy for drainage Doc No.1719765 Administration of financial contributions. Doc No.1719765 Wetland consent fund operational protocol. Doc No.1923773 Wetland assessment IRIS reporting function on riparian authorisations.</p> <p>Doc No.1740026 - Report for RMG, results of 2016 dairy audit Doc No.1463492 - Tri-view grounding case debriefing notes Doc No.1564389 - Enforcement training Power Point Doc No.1950701 - Env Compliance Conf 2017 Programme</p>
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	<p>conferences.</p> <p>We continually update our cost recovery policies and our advice and information sources.</p> <p>See also sections 1.3, 2, and 3.</p>	
<p>4.3: The public has visibility of freshwater quality approaches by Regional councils and evaluations of how effective these are / have been.</p>	<p>The TRC fully meets or surpasses this criterion.</p> <p>The Council uses a variety of mechanisms to get its public messaging on freshwater quality out into the community and evaluates how effective these have been.</p> <p>The Council employs regular public communications around freshwater quality results which consistently show that water quality is being maintained or improving at the majority of sites due to riparian management interventions and continual improvement in point source treatment and disposal practices or reduction of point source discharges in line with Council policies.</p> <p>The Council has used a number of mechanisms in its reviews and interim reviews of its RPS and RFWP leading to the Draft FLMP. Section 1.1 provides a summary with relevant documentation.</p> <p>The 2015 State of the Environment report is the 5-yearly report on the overall state of the Taranaki environment. It is targeted at a broad community audience and was formally released by the Minister for the Environment at a public launch at which Taranaki business leaders, central and local government organisations, community groups and individuals were present. It was accompanied by considerable media releases, use of Facebook and Twitter, newspaper articles etc. A series of newspaper articles highlighted key issues for more in depth attention, including one on water quality.</p>	<p>See various documentation in earlier sections of the report and on the Council's website www.trc.govt.nz</p>

	<p>'Talking on water' is a series the Council has initiated aimed at people who wouldn't normally register that water quality might be of interest to them or whose understanding is limited to 'sound bites' from news items. It has been developed to get across key messages in a simple way and to attract attention, with extra links for those who are more interested. We have had a high rate of engagement with the series on social media and through local newspapers. The style of purposeful connection on the topic of freshwater quality rather than ad hoc publicity around some particular event has proved effective.</p> <p>The 'Waterways' report is prepared annually and is about keeping the news about the state of and trends in our waterways as current as possible. It is distributed through all local community newspapers and through social media. It is linked to a more detailed report and technical reports (e.g. state of the environment reports) on the Council's website.</p> <p>The 'Requirements for good farm management in Taranaki', a plain English booklet, was prepared in 2017 and targeted at farmers and contractors. It sets out in a simple format the Council's requirements for good farm management. It has been sent to all stakeholders and is given out on request and discussions are held with stakeholders at the time.</p> <p>The 'Requirements' booklet ensures all farmers are aware of the Council's expectations with regard to water quality, both regulatory and non-regulatory, so that best current practice is maintained and an attitude of 'doing the right thing' is fostered, regardless of where the statutory review process is at.</p> <p>We have had very positive feedback from the farming community on the booklet as a very easy to understand summary of Council requirements. The 'Requirements'</p>	<p>Doc No.1830260 - Taranaki Regional Council Requirements for Good Farm Management in Taranaki booklet</p>
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	<p>booklet is in line with the proposed policy direction of the Council (as set out in the Draft FLMP) and national policy but uses the current regulatory framework to achieve gains in freshwater quality before the reviewed plan is formally notified.</p> <p>A series of short concept sheets to explain to the public proposals in the Draft FLMP were prepared and placed on the Council's website.</p> <p>For the public driving around the province it is obvious to see the transformation of the landscape with all the new riparian plantings implemented. This is captured in the publication "Transforming Taranaki"</p> <p>The Council also sets levels of service in its LTPs and Annual Plans relating to water quality and publically reports against these in the Council's Annual Report.</p> <p>The Council makes publically available, other relevant information, reports, research, Council Agenda items etc and makes these available in hardcopy and on its website.</p> <p>The Council makes full use of social and other media (e.g. press releases) outlining freshwater quality issues and management approaches.</p> <p>A perceived risk is that the public will see that water quality is being maintained or improved so that there is no need to take any further action. However, the Council's messaging is that while the results of our water quality monitoring are worth celebrating, the overall community desire is to improve water quality further. There is therefore still more work to be done and there is no room for complacency.</p> <p>See also sections 1, 2, and 3</p>	<p>General media promotion. Doc No.977839 Transforming Taranaki</p> <p>Doc No.1946635 - Consent and Regulatory Agenda (Incidents and Enforcement Summary)</p>
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Agenda Memorandum

Date 21 November 2017



**Memorandum to
Chairperson and Members
Policy and Planning committee**

**Subject: Update on environmental policies of the
new coalition Government**

Approved by: A D McLay, Director – Resource Management

B G Chamberlain, Chief Executive

Document: 1960252

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Members with an update on the environmental policies of the new coalition Government.

Executive summary

The formation of the Labour and New Zealand First coalition Government supported by the Greens following the September 2017 general election, has the potential to create significant changes to environmental policy and environmental management in New Zealand over the next 3 years, with important implications for local government.

The Coalition Agreement signed in October 2017 between Labour and New Zealand First gives the best indication to date of the policy and legislative agenda of the new Government.

Climate change policies feature strongly in the Coalition Agreement. The parties have agreed to introduce a Zero Carbon Act to require net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to the establishment of an independent Climate Commission. A significant part of the Coalition Agreement is a commitment to plant 100 million trees per year under the Billion Trees Planting Programme and to instruct the Climate Commission to determine the role of agriculture under the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Water quality is another priority that will be addressed by the new Government but the Coalition Agreement confirms that there will be no resource rentals for water in the current term of Parliament. Changes to the RMA are not specifically mentioned in the Coalition Agreement but given the heated debates that occurred during the previous Government's tenure, and Labour Party policy on the RMA, further change is likely.

The \$1 billion Regional Development Fund is a significant funding commitment to the regions and although we have not seen details of the funding priorities or criteria, all the indications are that investment in regional rail and forestry will be top priorities.

A number of other policies are of relevance to local government and these are briefly mentioned in the memorandum.

More detail on the policy agreements and priorities will emerge over the coming months.

Recommendations

That the Taranaki Regional Council:

1. receives the memorandum *Update on environmental policies of the new coalition Government*; and
2. notes that more detail on the policies and priorities will emerge over the coming weeks and months.

Background

The formation of the Labour and New Zealand First coalition Government supported by the Greens following the September 2017 general election, has the potential to create significant changes to environmental policy and environmental management in New Zealand over the next 3 years, with important implications for local government.

The coalition parties and the Greens campaigned strongly on the need for a change in direction, policy and approach. The Labour and Green parties in particular, campaigned strongly for change in several important areas including climate change, water policy and regional development.

The Coalition Agreement signed in October 2017 between Labour and New Zealand First gives the best indication to date of the policy and legislative agenda of the new Government.

Members should note the key differences the Coalition Agreement (negotiated between the New Zealand Labour Party and New Zealand First) and the Confidence and Supply Agreement (negotiated between Labour and the Green Party). The Coalition Agreement involves Ministers within Cabinet who are bound by collective Cabinet responsibility to implement government policy whereas the Confidence and Supply Agreement is limited to agreement to oppose any 'no confidence motions' and to support the Government's budgets.

Ministers outside Cabinet (of which the Green Party has four) are bound by collective responsibility in relation to their portfolios only, and not all Government policy.

Both agreements are attached for Members' information.

The policies in both agreements are set out at a high and relatively aspirational level but reflect the emphasis placed on common values and interests. Some disagreements are likely to arise as the details of the policy changes are worked through and these will be a test for the new coalition Government.

The pre-election policies of the parties may also emerge as candidates for attention over the next 3 years.

Environment and climate change

Environment and climate change policies is an area where there is strong alignment between the parties.

Climate change

The Labour/Green block put climate change at the heart of their election campaign. In terms of concessions, New Zealand First has agreed to a zero carbon emissions goal. All parties agree to the establishment of an independent Climate Commission.

Features of the Coalition Agreement include:

- Introduce a Zero Carbon Act to require net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Plant 100 million trees per year as part of the Billion Trees Planting Programme.
- Re-establish the New Zealand Forestry Service to be located in regional New Zealand (projected to be Rotorua).
- Instruct the Climate Commission to determine the role of agriculture under the Emissions Trading Scheme. If agriculture is to be included then upon entry, the free allocation of credits to agriculture will be 95% with all revenues from this source recycled back into agriculture in order to encourage agricultural innovation, mitigation and additional planting of forestry.
- Make the Government's vehicle fleet, where practicable, emissions free by 2025/2026 (this is likely to exclude emergency and defence force vehicles).

Water quality

The new Government has confirmed its commitment to improving water quality. Labour pledged to hold a 'Clean Waters Summit' on cleaning up rivers and lakes in the first 100 days in office, although this does not appear to have made it into the Coalition Agreement. The Coalition Agreement does commit to introducing higher water quality standards for urban and rural areas using measures that take into account seasonal differences. Presumably, this will be through further changes to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management or some other similar instrument.

The Labour/Greens Confidence and Supply Agreement provides for stronger regulatory instruments for water quality (the precise mechanism is not stated), increased funding for freshwater enhancement and a winding down of Government support for irrigation, although in the Coalition Agreement, Labour and New Zealand First have agreed to honour existing Crown irrigation investments.

Water tax

While Labour campaigned on implementing a national water tax, and this was supported by the Greens, the policy has not made it into the Coalition Agreement. In fact, the Coalition Agreement states that there will be 'no resource rentals for water in this term of Parliament'.

However, the Coalition Agreement does commit to introduce a royalty on exports of bottled water.

Biosecurity

The Coalition Agreement pledges an increase to MPI Biosecurity New Zealand's resourcing and a Select Committee Inquiry into biosecurity.

Also promised in the Coalition Agreement is increased support for piloting alternatives to 1080 and countering myrtle rust and kauri dieback.

Resource Management Act

The Coalition Agreement does not refer specifically to the RMA.

However, Labour Party policies seek to repeal changes made by National to the RMA in 2017, including the increased ministerial powers, the standardisation of plan formats, limits to public notification, and the restriction of appeal rights. Labour Party policy is to retain the RMA while improving processes and ensuring that local communities can have their say. They propose a panel of experts be convened to evaluate all amendments to the RMA since it was passed in 1991 and advise on how to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Labour Party policy also proposes greater use of national policy statements and national environmental standards and to strengthen or replace existing NPSs or NESs where they are clearly inadequate (such as the NPS for Freshwater Management 2014).

The Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Labour Party and the Greens simply seeks better enforcement of the RMA.

New Zealand First's policy is to 'repeal the separate race-based planning that has been put into the RMA'. This is contrary to Labour and the Greens' inclusive and consultative approach to mana whenua.

Some commentators have argued that given the distance in policies here, it is not surprising that there is little detail on the RMA in the coalition agreements. However, reform or at least revision of the RMA attracted much attention and heated debate during the previous Government's tenure and it would be surprising if pressures for change to the RMA did not surface again.

Conservation

The Coalition Agreement commits to a significant increase in funding for the Department of Conservation. Apart from a commitment to work with Māori and other quota holders to resolve outstanding issues in the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill, there is little else in the Coalition Agreement on conservation issues.

The Confidence and Supply Agreement with the Greens contains more on conservation (including increasing the Department of Conservation's funding), and has commitments to safeguard New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity by reducing the extinction risk for threatened plants and wildlife, increasing predator control and protecting habitats.

Labour Party policy states that a \$75 million a year Tourism and Conservation Infrastructure Fund would be established and funded by a \$25 levy on international visitors. The Fund

would be used to improve the experience of visitors to New Zealand and enhance our natural environment, including additional funding for DoC's biodiversity work and tourism infrastructure. Green Party policy seeks to stop all mining on conservation land and impose a 20c charge on single-use plastic bags. New Zealand First's policy focuses on using conservation tasks to create jobs and provide better support for voluntary protection by private landowners. However, none of these policies have found their way into the coalition agreements.

Other environmental policies

Under the Confidence and Supply Agreement, Labour and the Greens have also agreed to:

- Make all new legislation subject to a climate impact assessment.
- Establish a new cross-agency climate change board of public sector CEOs.
- Transition the Climate Commission to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 (including geothermal) in a normal hydrological year.
- Stimulate up to \$1 billion of new investment in low carbon industries by 2020, kick-started by a Government-backed Green Investment Fund of \$100 million.
- Provide assistance to the agricultural sector to reduce biological emissions, improve water quality, and shift to more diverse and sustainable land use including more forestry.
- Commit to minimising waste to landfill with significant reductions in all waste classes by 2020.
- Investigate establishing a Taranaki blue whale sanctuary.

The Labour Party's own policy includes a number of other commitments in the environmental area. These include:

- Helping farmers with fencing and riparian planting through Labour's Ready for Work programme.
- Supporting a transition for workers in industries that need to reduce emissions and the creation of jobs in sectors that are carbon-free or carbon sinks, such as forestry.
- Keeping the threatened Maui dolphin safe from activities such as fishing or petroleum exploration.

Other policies of interest

Other coalition agreement policies of interest to either this Committee or the Council include:

- A \$1 billion per annum Regional Development (Provincial Growth) Fund to provide investment in regional rail, planting of 100 million trees per year in a Billion Trees Planting Programme, commissioning a feasibility study on the options for moving the Ports of Auckland, and other large scale capital projects (Coalition Agreement).
- A commitment to relocate government functions into the regions (Coalition Agreement).
- Hold a public inquiry 'A decade after Shand' to investigate the drivers for local government costs and its revenue base (Coalition Agreement).
- Reprioritising the National Land Transport Fund to increase the investment in rail infrastructure in cities and regions and cycling and walking (Confidence and Supply Agreement).
- Investigate a Green Transport Card as part of work to reduce the cost of public transport, prioritising people in low-income households and people on a benefit (Confidence and Supply Agreement).

There are a number of other policies in transport, energy, infrastructure and waste management that will also be of interest.

Implications for the Council

It is too early to say with any certainty what the implications of the changes in policy brought about by the election and the new coalition Government will be.

There are certainly significant changes ahead in climate change policy but most of these are expected to occur at the national level, or in specific sectors, such as forestry and agriculture. Nevertheless, there will likely be flow-on effects into the Taranaki economy.

There will continue to be ongoing national debate over water quality and we will need to see where this takes us before we recommit to notifying our review of the Regional Fresh Water Plan.

Changes to the RMA have been a constant source of frustration for all parties over many years and pressure for further changes may well reappear on the agenda within the next 3 years.

Biosecurity is another area where we can expect to see change with a Select Committee inquiry. The Council has consistently called for a much greater focus on border control to reduce the potential for pests or unwanted organisms to become established in New Zealand.

The coalition Government has signalled regional development as one of its priorities and the \$1 billion Regional Development Fund is a significant funding commitment to the regions. We have not seen details of the funding priorities or criteria but all the indications are that investment in regional rail and forestry will be top priorities.

Much more detail on the policy agreements and priorities will emerge over the coming months.

Decision-making considerations

Part 6 (Planning, decision-making and accountability) of the *Local Government Act 2002* has been considered and documented in the preparation of this agenda item. The recommendations made in this item comply with the decision-making obligations of the *Act*.

Financial considerations—LTP/Annual plan

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the Council's adopted Long-Term Plan and estimates. Any financial information included in this memorandum has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Policy considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by this Council under various legislative frameworks

including, but not restricted to, the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Resource Management Act 1991* and the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*.

Legal considerations

This memorandum and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

Attachments

Document 1960681: Labour and New Zealand First Coalition Agreement

Document 1960684: Labour and Greens Confidence and Supply Agreement



COALITION AGREEMENT

New Zealand
Labour Party &
New Zealand
First

52nd Parliament





Coalition agreement between the New Zealand Labour Party & New Zealand First Party.

Preamble

The Labour and New Zealand First Parties have a range of shared values, and policy objectives.

The commitment of Labour and New Zealand First is to provide stable and effective coalition government. Labour wishes to progress action in accordance with the Labour Party's Policy Platform. New Zealand First wishes to progress action in accordance with its policy platform.

Together, we will work to provide New Zealand with a transformational government, committed to resolving the greatest long-term challenges for the country, including sustainable economic development increased exports and decent jobs paying higher wages, a healthy environment, a fair society and good government. We will reduce inequality and poverty and improve the well-being of all New Zealanders and the environment we live in.

Labour and New Zealand First are committed to building public confidence in, and engagement with Parliament, and Government and the electoral system as a whole. We are committed to an independent and robust public service.

We will do this while maintaining our independent political identities and working in the best interests of New Zealand and New Zealanders.

Coalition commitments

Labour and New Zealand First agree to be coalition parties in government on the basis that:

- The Parties agree to support and promote the matters and issues which have been subject to agreement between them.
- The Parties will work collaboratively and in good faith to reach agreement on particular policy and legislative initiatives. The key directions for the first term will be set out in the speech from the throne.
- The Parties endorse and will operate in accordance with the Cabinet Manual.
- As provided for in the Cabinet Manual, the Parties will “agree to disagree” where negotiated between party leaders, and in such circumstances the Parties will be free to

express alternative views publicly, and in Parliament.

The Labour and New Zealand First Parties agree to identify policies and roles in a way that maintains and promotes the distinct identity of each party. This will include public attribution and acknowledgement of the Party responsible for policy.

Coalition management process

The Labour and New Zealand First Parties will work together in coalition government in good faith and with no surprises, reflecting appropriate notice and consultation in important matters, including the ongoing development of policy. The parties will cooperate with each other in respect of executive and parliamentary activities, consult closely, and operate with mutual respect to achieve agreed outcomes.

This includes a commitment to agreed policies and programmes, and consensus decision-making. Protocols will be established for coalition management, policy consultation, select committee management and non-routine procedural motions.

Labour and New Zealand First also undertake to keep full voting numbers present whenever the House is sitting and in Select Committee.

Coalition Priorities

In this parliamentary term, New Zealand First has a number of priorities to progress which Labour will support alongside its policy programme. These include the following goals:

Regional Economic Development and Primary Industries

- A \$1b per annum Regional Development (Provincial Growth) Fund, including:
 - Significant investment in regional rail.
 - Planting 100 million trees per year in a Billion Trees Planting Programme.
 - Commissioning a feasibility study on the options for moving the Ports of Auckland, including giving Northport serious consideration.
 - Other large-scale capital projects.
- A commitment to relocate government functions into the regions.
- Re-establish the New Zealand Forestry Service, to be located in regional New Zealand.
- An increase to MPI BiosecurityNZ's resourcing and a Select Committee Inquiry into

Biosecurity.

- Honour existing Crown Irrigation investment commitments.
- Recognise the potential for aquaculture in promoting regional economic growth.
- Examination of agricultural debt mediation as well as receivership fees and charges.

Economy

- Review and reform of the Reserve Bank Act.
- Reform government procurement rules to give New Zealand companies greater access.
- Review the official measures for unemployment to ensure they accurately reflect the workforce of the 21st Century.
- Progressively increase the Minimum Wage to \$20 per hour by 2020, with the final increase to take effect in April 2021.
- Increase penalties for corporate fraud and tax evasion.
- Investigate growing KiwiBank's capital base and capabilities so that it is positioned to become the Government's Banker when that contract is next renewed.
- Strengthen the Overseas Investment Act and undertake a comprehensive register of foreign-owned land and housing.

Research & Development

- Work to increase Research & Development spending to 2% of GDP over ten years.

Health

- Re-establish the Mental Health Commission.
- Annual Free Health Check for Seniors including an eye check as part of the SuperGold Card.
- Teen Health Checks for all Year 9 students.
- Free doctors' visits for all under 14s.
- Progressively increase the age for free breast screening to 74.

Education

- Develop a 30 year strategic plan for New Zealand education.
- Restore funding for gifted students.
- Pilot counsellors in primary schools.
- Offer free driver training to all secondary students.
- Restore funding for Computers in Homes.
- Restart the Te Kotahitanga teacher professional development initiative.

Defence

- Re-examine the Defence procurement programme within the context of the 2016 Defence Capability Plan budget.

Housing

- Establish a Housing Commission.

Law and Order

- Strive towards adding 1800 new Police officers over three years and commit to a serious focus on combatting organised crime and drugs.
- Investigate a volunteer rural constabulary programme.
- Increase Community Law Centre funding.
- Establish a Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Social Development

- Increase funding for family violence networks, including Women's Refuge and Shakti.
- Pilot the Youth Education, Training & Employment initiative and provide 800 extra places for the LSV scheme.
- Introduce programmes for long-term unemployed to improve work readiness such as 'Ready for Work'.

Superannuitants

- Introduce a new generation SuperGold smartcard containing entitlements and concessions.
- National Superannuation eligibility to remain at 65.

Environment

- The government's vehicle fleet, where practicable, to become emissions-free by 2025/26.
- Introduce a Zero Carbon Act and an independent Climate Commission, based on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
- If the Climate Commission determines that agriculture is to be included in the ETS, then upon entry, the free allocation to agriculture will be 95% but with all revenues from this source recycled back into agriculture in order to encourage agricultural innovation, mitigation and additional planting of forestry.
- Significantly increase funding for the Department of Conservation.
- Establish a tyre stewardship fund.
- Increase support for National Science Challenges, including for piloting alternatives to 1080 and countering myrtle rust and kauri dieback.
- No resource rentals for water in this term of Parliament.
- Introduce a royalty on exports of bottled water.
- Higher water quality standards for urban and rural using measurements which take into account seasonal differences.
- Work with Māori and other quota holders to resolve outstanding issues in the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill in a way that is satisfactory to both Labour and New Zealand First.

Democracy

- No new Parliamentary building to proceed this term.
- Independent review of the integrity of electoral processes and enrolments.
- Review the processes of Parliament to reflect an MMP environment.
- Introduce and pass a 'Waka Jumping' Bill.

Immigration

- As per Labour's policy, pursue Labour and New Zealand First's shared priorities to:
 - Ensure work visas issued reflect genuine skills shortages and cut down on low quality international education courses.
 - Take serious action on migrant exploitation, particularly of international students.

Other

- Commit to re-entry to Pike River.
- Build a museum to commemorate the Māori Battalion at Waitangi.
- Hold a full-scale review into retail power pricing.
- Allow a conscience vote for MPs on New Zealand First's Supplementary Order Paper to the End of Life Choice Bill, which provides for a referendum.
- Hold a Public Inquiry "A decade after Shand" to investigate the drivers of local government costs and its revenue base.
- Support New Zealand First's Racing policy.
- Work towards a Free Trade Agreement with the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union and initiate Closer Commonwealth Economic Relations.
- Record a Cabinet minute regarding the lack of process followed prior to the National-led government's sponsorship of UNSC2334.

Ministerial Positions

New Zealand First will have four Ministers inside Cabinet, including Rt Hon Winston Peters as Deputy Prime Minister, and one Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

This will include the following portfolios: Foreign Affairs, Infrastructure, Regional Economic Development, Internal Affairs, Seniors, Defence, Veterans' Affairs, Children, Forestry, State Owned Enterprises, Racing, Associate Finance, Associate Education and an Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Regional Economic Development.

A Minister from New Zealand First will be represented on the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) and the Cabinet Legislation Committee. Ministers from New Zealand First will also be represented on other Cabinet Committees as agreed between the Party Leaders.

Relationship to other agreements

Both parties to this agreement recognise that Labour will be working with other parties to deliver a stable Government.

Labour agrees that it will not enter into any other relationship agreement which is inconsistent with this agreement, and New Zealand First and Labour agree that they will each act in good faith to allow any other agreements to be complied with.

Dated: 24 October 2017

Jacinda Ardern

Labour Leader

Rt Hon Winston Peters

New Zealand First Leader




CONFIDENCE & SUPPLY AGREEMENT

New Zealand
Labour Party &
Green Party of
Aotearoa New
Zealand

52nd Parliament





Confidence and Supply Agreement between the New Zealand Labour Party and the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Preamble

The Labour and Green Parties have a range of shared values, and policy objectives. This agreement builds on the working relationship established by the Memorandum of Understanding, signed while both parties were in Opposition.

The commitment of Labour and the Green Party is to provide stable government. Labour wishes to progress action in accordance with the Labour Party's Policy Platform. The Green Party wishes to progress action in accordance with the Green Charter.

Together, we will work to provide Aotearoa New Zealand with a transformational Government, committed to resolving the greatest long-term challenges for the country: sustainable economic development including increased exports and decent jobs paying higher wages, a healthy environment, a fair society and good government. We will reduce inequality and poverty and improve the well-being of all New Zealanders and the environment we live in.

The Labour and Green Parties are committed to building public confidence in and engagement with Parliament and Government and the electoral system as a whole. We are committed to an independent and robust public service.

We will do this while maintaining our independent political identities and working in the best interests of New Zealand and New Zealanders.

Nature of Agreement

The Green Party agrees to provide confidence and supply support to a Labour-led Government for the term of this Parliament. The Green Party will oppose any no confidence motions and will support Budgets developed in accordance with this agreement. The Green Party will determine its own position in relation to any policy or legislative matter not covered by collective responsibility as set out below. Labour in turn supports the areas of priority set out in this document, alongside its policy programme.

The Labour and Green Parties agree to identify policies and roles in a way that maintains and promotes the distinct identity of each party.

The relationship between the Green Party and Labour will be based on good faith and no surprises.

Consultation arrangements

The Labour and Green Parties are committed to consensus decision-making where possible.

The Labour-led Government will consult with the Green Party on issues including:

- The broad outline of the legislative programme
- Significant legislative, regulatory and policy changes
- Broad Budget parameters and process

Consultation will occur in a timely fashion to ensure the Green Party's views can be incorporated.

Formal consultation will be managed between the Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Co-Leaders of the Green Party.

Other cooperation will include:

- Access to relevant Ministers (including Associate Ministers)
- Regular meetings between the Prime Minister and the Green Party Co-Leaders
- Briefings by Ministers and officials on significant issues that are likely to be politically sensitive before any public announcement
- Advance notification of significant announcements by either the Government, or the Green Party
- Joint announcements on areas of shared policy

Consultation

The Labour and Green Parties will work together in good faith and with no surprises, reflecting appropriate notice and consultation in important matters, including the ongoing development of policy. The parties will cooperate with each other in respect of executive and parliamentary activities, consult closely, and operate with mutual respect to achieve agreed outcomes.

Policy Programme

The Green Party supports a transformative Government which implements the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In this parliamentary term, the Green Party has a number of priorities to progress the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Labour-led Government shares and will support these priorities. They include the following goals:

Sustainable Economy

1. Adopt and make progress towards the goal of a Net Zero Emissions Economy by 2050, with a particular focus on policy development and initiatives in transport and urban form, energy and primary industries in accordance with milestones to be set by an independent Climate Commission and with a focus on establishing Just Transitions for exposed regions and industries.
 - a. Introduce a Zero Carbon Act and establish an independent Climate Commission
 - b. All new legislation will have a climate impact assessment analysis.
 - c. A comprehensive set of environmental, social and economic sustainability indicators will be developed.
 - d. A new cross-agency climate change board of public sector CEOs will be established.
2. Reduce congestion and carbon emissions by substantially increasing investment in safe walking and cycling, frequent and affordable passenger transport, rail, and sea freight.
 - a. Investigate a Green Transport Card as part of work to reduce the cost of public transport, prioritising people in low income households and people on a benefit.
 - b. National Land Transport Fund spending will be reprioritised to increase the investment in rail infrastructure in cities and regions, and cycling and walking.
 - c. Auckland's East-West motorway link will not proceed as currently proposed.
 - d. Work will begin on light rail from the city to the airport in Auckland.
 - e. Safe cycling and walking, especially around schools, will be a transport priority.
3. Request the Climate Commission to plan the transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 (which includes geothermal) in a normal hydrological year.
 - a. Solar panels on schools will be investigated as part of this goal.
4. Stimulate up to \$1 billion of new investment in low carbon industries by 2020, kick-started by a Government-backed Green Investment Fund of \$100 million.

5. Provide assistance to the agricultural sector to reduce biological emissions, improve water quality, and shift to more diverse and sustainable land use including more forestry.

Healthy Environment

6. Safeguard our indigenous biodiversity by reducing the extinction risk for 3,000 threatened plant and wildlife species, significantly increasing conservation funding, increasing predator control and protecting their habitats.
 - a. Budget provision will be made for significantly increasing the Department of Conservation's funding.
7. Improve water quality and prioritise achieving healthy rivers, lakes and aquifers with stronger regulatory instruments, funding for freshwater enhancement and winding down Government support for irrigation.
 - a. The Resource Management Act will be better enforced.
8. Safeguard the healthy functioning of marine ecosystems and promote abundant fisheries. Use best endeavours and work alongside Māori to establish the Kermadec/ Rangitāhua Ocean Sanctuary and look to establish a Taranaki blue whale sanctuary.
9. Commit to minimising waste to landfill with significant reductions in all waste classes by 2020.

Fair Society

10. Overhaul the welfare system, ensure access to entitlements, remove excessive sanctions and review Working For Families so that everyone has a standard of living and income that enables them to live in dignity and participate in their communities, and lifts children and their families out of poverty.
 - a. Safe sleeping environment devices will be made available for vulnerable families.
11. Ensure that every child with special needs and learning difficulties can participate fully in school life.
12. Eliminate the gender pay gap within the core public sector with substantial progress within this Parliamentary term, and work to ensure the wider public sector and private sector is on a similar pathway.
13. Aim to end energy poverty in New Zealand and ensure that every New Zealander has a warm, dry, secure home, whether they rent or own.
 - a. Budget provision will be made to substantially increase the number of homes insulated.

14. Deliver innovative home ownership models within the State and broader community housing programme.
 - a. A Rent to Own scheme or similar progressive ownership models will be developed as part of Labour's Kiwibuild programme.
15. Make tertiary education more affordable for students and reduce the number of students living in financial hardship.
16. Ensure everyone has access to timely and high quality mental health services, including free counselling for those under 25 years.
17. Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the country's founding document.
18. Review, and adequately fund and support, the family re-unification scheme for refugees.
19. Increase funding for alcohol and drug addiction services and ensure drug use is treated as a health issue, and have a referendum on legalising the personal use of cannabis at, or by, the 2020 general election.
20. Strengthen New Zealand's democracy by increasing public participation, openness, and transparency around official information.

Labour agrees to work with the Green Party on these and other policy areas as may be identified from time to time, and in good faith.

Ministerial Positions

Green Party Members of Parliament will hold the following Ministerial positions: Climate Change, Associate Finance, Conservation, Women, Land Information New Zealand, Associate Environment, Statistics, Associate Transport, Associate Health and an Undersecretary to the Minister of Justice (Domestic and Sexual Violence).

A Minister from the Green Party will be represented on the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH) and the Cabinet Legislation Committee. Ministers from the Green Party will also be represented on other Cabinet Committees as agreed between the Party Leaders.

Collective Responsibility

The Green Party agrees that any Green Party Minister or Associate Minister is bound by collective responsibility in relation to their respective portfolios. When Ministers speak about issues within their portfolio responsibilities, they will speak for the Government, representing the Government's position in relation to those responsibilities. When Green Party Ministers speak about matters outside their

portfolio responsibilities, however, they may speak as Co-Leader and/or members of the Green Party.

Where there has been full participation in the development of a policy initiative outside of any portfolio responsibility held by Green Party Ministers, and that participation has led to an agreed position, it is expected that all parties to this agreement will publicly support the process and outcome.

In other areas “agree to disagree” provisions will be applied as necessary.

Cabinet Manual

Green Party Ministers agree to be bound by the Cabinet Manual in the exercise of Ministerial Responsibilities, and in particular, agree to be bound by the provisions in the Cabinet Manual on conduct, public duty, and personal interests of Ministers.

Relationship management process

The Labour and Green Parties commit to consensus decision-making. Protocols will be established for relationship management, policy consultation, select committee management and non-routine procedural motions.

The Green Party also undertakes to keep full voting numbers present whenever the House is sitting and in Select Committee on matters where the Green Party has committed to support the Labour-led Government.

Confidentiality

It is agreed that where briefings are provided to the Green Party, or where they are involved in a consultative arrangement with regard to legislation or policy, all such discussions shall be confidential unless otherwise agreed.

In the event that Government papers are provided to the Green Party in the course of consultation or briefings, they shall be treated as confidential and shall not be released or the information used for any public purpose without the express agreement of the relevant Minister.

In the event that Cabinet or Cabinet Committee papers are provided to the Green Party for the purposes of consultation, they shall be provided to a designated person within the office of the Green Party, who will take responsibility for ensuring that they are accorded the appropriate degree of confidentiality.

Relationship to other agreements

Both parties to this agreement recognise that Labour will be working with other parties both in terms of coalitions and confidence and supply arrangements.

Labour agrees that it will not enter into any other relationship agreement which is inconsistent with this agreement and the Green Party and Labour agree that they will each act in good faith to allow all such agreements to be complied with.

Dated: 24 October 2017

Jacinda Ardern
Labour Leader

James Shaw
Green Party Co-Leader

**Policy and Planning Committee
Public Excluded**

In accordance with section 48(1) of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*, resolves that the public is excluded from the following part of the proceedings of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting on Tuesday 21 November for the following reason/s:

Item 8 - Predator Free Taranaki

THAT the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of the information is necessary to enable the Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities or negotiations.

Whakataka te hau

Karakia to open and close meetings

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease the winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki tonga	Cease the winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Let the breeze blow over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Kia hī ake ana te atakura	Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air
He tio, he huka, he hauhu	A touch of frost, a promise of glorious day
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia tina.	Let there be certainty
Tina!	Secure it!
Hui ē! Tāiki ē!	Draw together! Affirm!

Nau mai e ngā hua

Karakia for kai

Nau mai e ngā hua	Welcome the gifts of food
o te wao	from the sacred forests
o te ngakina	from the cultivated gardens
o te wai tai	from the sea
o te wai Māori	from the fresh waters
Nā Tāne	The food of Tāne
Nā Rongo	of Rongo
Nā Tangaroa	of Tangaroa
Nā Maru	of Maru
Ko Ranginui e tū iho nei	I acknowledge Ranginui above and
Ko Papatūānuku e takoto ake nei	Papatūānuku below
Tūturu o whiti whakamaua kia	Let there be certainty
tina	Secure it!
Tina! Hui e! Taiki e!	Draw together! Affirm!