

# ***Progressive Implementation Programme for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management***

Taranaki Regional Council



Working with people | caring for Taranaki

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# 1. Introduction

## Purpose

The purpose of this document entitled *Progressive Implementation Programme for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management – Taranaki Regional Council* (PIP) is to set out the Taranaki Regional Council's (the Council) staged implementation programme of key projects for implementing the *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014* (NPS-FM).

This document gives effect to Policy E1 requirements of the NPS-FM and supersedes the Council's previous implementation programme, which was publicly notified in 2015.

## Context

The NPS-FM initially came into effect on 1 August 2014 and was updated in August 2017 to incorporate amendments from the *National Policy Statement for Freshwater Amendment Order 2017*.

The NPS-FM sets a new direction for improving or maintaining water quality and protecting important ecosystems in our lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers. Under sections 62(3) and 67(3)(a) of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA), regional policy statements and regional plans must give effect to the NPS-FM.

The NPS-FM does not specify exactly how it should be implemented, or how regional policy statements and plans should be amended. That will be up to councils and the local community to determine, reflecting regional differences. However, Policy E1 of the NPS-FM states that if it is impractical for a regional council to fully complete implementation of the NPS-FM by 31 December 2015, i.e. by having a fully operating

plan (post appeals/Environmental Court) then it may implement it by a programme of defined time-limited stages by which it is to be fully implemented by **31 December 2025** or **31 December 2030** (if certain circumstances apply).

Policy E1 reads as follows:

- (a) *This policy applies to the implementation by a regional council of a policy of this national policy statement.*
- (b) *Every regional council is to implement the policy as promptly as is reasonable in the circumstances, and so it is fully completed by no later than 31 December 2025.*
- (ba) *A regional council may extend the date in Policy E1 (b) to 31 December 2030 if it considers that:
  - i) *meeting that date would result in lower quality planning; or*
  - ii) *it would be impracticable for it to complete implementation of a policy by that date.**
- (c) *Where a regional council is satisfied that it is impracticable for it to complete implementation of a policy fully by 31 December 2015, the council may implement it by a programme of defined time-limited stages by which it is to be fully implemented by 31 December 2025 or 31 December 2030 if Policy E1 (ba) applies.*
- (d) *Any programme of time-limited stages is to be formally adopted by the council by 31 December 2015 and publicly notified.*
- (e) *Where a regional council has adopted a programme of staged implementation, it is to publicly report, in every year, on the extent to which the programme has been implemented.*
- (f) *Any programme adopted under Policy E1 c) of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 or under Policy E1 c) of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 by a regional council is to be*

*reviewed, revised if necessary, formally adopted by the regional council by 31 December 2018, and publicly notified.*

- (g) *Every regional council must, at intervals of not more than five years, compile and make available to the public a review of the improvements to specified rivers and lakes, and primary contact sites, made in giving effect to Policy A5.*

This Council has commenced a review of its *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* and *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki* that will give effect to the NPS-FM. However, the ongoing review process and the final adoption of a reviewed plan will occur post 31 December 2015. Therefore, in December 2015, the Council adopted its first PIP.

Subsequent amendments to the NPS-FM in 2017 state that any progressive implementation programme adopted under the 2011 and 2014 versions of the NPS-FM must now be reviewed, revised if necessary, and formally adopted by the regional council by 31 December 2018, and publicly notified.

The Council reviewed its 2015 PIP and has adopted a revised programme, which is presented in this document. Please note that it is not open for submissions.



Monitoring confirms that water quality in the Mangaehu River (a hill country sourced tributary of the eastern hill country) is within the National Objectives Framework's 'A' band for Total Oxidised Nitrogen and Ammoniacal nitrogen.

## 2. Work to date (to December 2018)

The implementation of the NPS-FM in the Taranaki region does not start from a blank canvas. Council work programmes and activities already give effect to key elements of the NPS-FM. These include:

- Operative first generation *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* (2001) that addresses NPS-FM objectives and policies relating to water quality, water quantity, integrated management, values, monitoring, and tangata whenua roles and interests.
- Operative first generation *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki* (2001) that contributes NPS-FM objectives and policies, particularly in relation to water quality and integrated management.
- As part of the Taranaki Riparian Management Programme, Council has been working with dairy and other intensive pastoral farmers since 1994 to fence, planting, and/or retire riparian margins on the ring plain and coastal terraces.
- As part of the Sustainable Land Management Programme and the South Taranaki and Regional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS), Council has been working with hill country farmers since 1995/66 to improve land management practices and, amongst other things, minimize the escape of sediment from erosion prone land into waterways.
- Over the 'life' of the current Plan Council has been working with industry and district councils to upgrade and where possible eliminate all town waste discharges into rivers.
- 2008: Interim review, involving targeted consultation, on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Freshwater Plan. Interim review confirmed the efficiency and effectiveness of Plan provisions, including progress on the achievement of freshwater outcomes.
- 2009: Interim review, involving targeted consultation, on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Soil Plan. Interim review confirmed the efficiency and effectiveness of Plan provisions, including progress on the achievement of soil conservation outcomes (which in term has implications for sediment loads from erosion prone land).
- 2010: Second generation *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*, which became operative on 1 January 2010. The Regional Policy Statement included the identification of outstanding waterbodies, and rivers and stream catchments with high water quality, natural, ecological and amenity values.
- 2012 to 2014: Stakeholder Focus Group established and industry sector group engagement undertaken to help discuss key issues and key changes and inform the early development of a draft Freshwater and Land Management Plan. Representation on the Focus Group included:

Federated Farmers	Department of Conservation
Fonterra Shareholders Council	New Plymouth District Council
Fonterra	Forest and Bird
DairyNZ	Ngāti Ruanui
Open Country	Trustpower
Parininihi ki Waitotara	South Taranaki District Council
Fish and Game Taranaki	Stratford District Council
Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.	
- 2012 to 2015: Consultation with recognised iwi across the region (Taranaki, Ngāruahine, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngaa Rauru, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tama, Ngati Mutunga, Te Atiawa). All iwi have contributed to a tangata whenua vision and policy development for a draft Freshwater and Land Management Plan.

- 2012 to 2015: Background research, investigations and studies on a range of complex and contentious freshwater topics. These include industry specific 'future directions' reports for gravel extraction, farm dairy effluent, nutrient management, indigenous biodiversity, small stream modifications, oil and gas, outstanding waterbodies, and native fisheries.
- 2012 to 2015: Technical and monitoring documents created on topics affecting freshwater quality, plus research into suggested water quality limits for Taranaki's rivers and streams, including the NIWA commissioned report *Developing Water Quality Limits for Taranaki Regional Council* (2014), which identified possible limits based on National Objectives Framework's numeric attribute states.
- 2015: State of the environment report 2015 *Taranaki as One* prepared collating and analysing state of the environment monitoring data to identify environmental trends and changes over the past five to 20 years or more and to assess the effectiveness of the Council's management responses.
- 2015: Draft Plan released for comment and discussion on 1 May 2015. Subsequent to the draft Plan consultative process, Council undertook to undertake further investigations and consultation prior to publicly notifying a Proposed Plan. Work on the development of the Proposed Plan and accompanying section 32 report continues.
- 2015: Council's freshwater physicochemical monitoring programme extended to cover all four freshwater management units for the Taranaki region (as identified in the draft Plan). These being: water bodies of outstanding value; the ring plain, the northern and southern coastal terraces and the eastern hill country.<sup>1</sup>
- November 2015: The first *Implementation Programme for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management: Taranaki Regional Council 2015* was prepared and publicly notified. The preparation and reporting of this document is required when a council cannot fully implement the NPS-FM by

31 December 2015 (all regional councils excluding Otago and West Coast have subsequently been required to prepare these programmes).

Since the adoption of 2015 PIP, Council has continued to implement additional key elements of the NPS-FM in the Taranaki region while also undertaking further investigations and engagement associated with the ongoing review of the freshwater and soil plans. These include:

- October 2016: Council implemented the Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Programme to meet the requirements of the NPS-FM that councils report on the characteristics of freshwater. Dissolved oxygen is one of six characteristics identified by the NPS-FM as it is useful as an indicator for ecosystem health within waterways. The programme involves the instalment of permanent monitoring stations across all four freshwater management units in the region.
- January 2017: Interim review, involving targeted consultation, on the efficiency and effectiveness of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*. Interim review confirmed the efficiency and effectiveness of Regional Policy Statement provisions, including progress on the achievement of freshwater outcomes but highlighted changes factors, including impact of changes to the legislative and planning framework for freshwater on existing regional planning instruments .
- March 2017: the *Taranaki Regional Council Requirements for Good Farm Management* was prepared and released. The document sets out directions on freshwater and land management activities that captures community and NPS-FM expectations relating to the management of farm dairy effluent, riparian management, wetland protection, forestry, taking gravel, silage pits, stream crossings, dams, culverts, domestic wastewater, spraying, fertiliser application, vegetation clearance and stream modification. The requirements document is based on current and future policy and seeks to ensure best farming practices and environmental improvement while the Council continues reviewing its freshwater and soil plans.

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<sup>1</sup> This gives effect to Policy CB1(b) of the NPS-FM and the requirement for Council to identify a site or sites at which monitoring will be undertaken that are representative for each freshwater management unit. Two new representative sites were included in the Waitara River and Whenuakura River within the eastern hill country.

- April 2017: The Council adopted a riparian management plan compliance certificate regime setting out a regime and standards for farmers in relation to meeting proposed stock exclusion and riparian management requirements of the Council in the ring plain, coastal terrace and outstanding freshwater management units.
- July 2017: The Council developed and initiated its monthly periphyton monitoring programme at 12 sites around the region necessary to give effect to NPS-FM monitoring requirements.
- December 2017: Council commissioned NIWA to investigate instream health and water quality arising from riparian management activities in Taranaki waterways. The report *Analysis of Stream Responses to Riparian Management on the Taranaki Ring Plain*, which was published in March 2018, confirmed the effectiveness of riparian management as a mitigation tool to ensure Taranaki's generally high water quality can be maintained and enhanced into the future (thereby giving effect to water quality objectives and policies set out in Clause (a) of the NPS-FM). The study found that the Council's long-running non-regulatory riparian management programme has led to improved ecological health in the region's waterways, as well as reduced *E.coli* levels.
- March 2018: Council set and published *Draft Regional Targets for Swimmable Rivers and Lakes for the Taranaki Region*. These targets give effect to Policy A6(a) of the NPS-FM. The Draft Targets confirm Council's concerns that dairying regions, regardless of interventions adopted, will not be able to meet Government targets for swimmability in rivers, which apply all year around, even when there is no swimming due to low temperatures and high unsafe stream flows.
- March 2018: Council adopted the internal report *Incorporating Mātauranga Māori into Council Monitoring of Fresh Water*. The report provides a brief overview of the successes and challenges that other regional councils have experienced while incorporating Mātauranga Māori into their freshwater planning and monitoring, identifies some frameworks and monitoring tools currently being used around the country, as well as indicators from a Māori perspective and a western science view. The report further presents some recommendations for the Council to incorporate Mātauranga Māori into its freshwater planning and monitoring framework as required by Policy CB1(v) of the NPS-FM. The internal report is being used to inform Council's consultation and discussion with iwi in what is a complex area. The regional council sector is also preparing a stocktake report on Mātauranga Māori monitoring.
- June 2018: Council updated its freshwater quantity accounting system. The spreadsheet based system sets out, for all Taranaki rivers and streams with consented takes, the amount of allocable water, minimum flows and the remaining available water for consumptive uses. The freshwater quantity accounting system gives effect to Policy CC1(a) of the NPS-FM.
- July 2018: the Council adopted the report titled: *Review of Minimum Flows and Water Allocation in Taranaki*. This study examines international and national research that has been carried out into the effects of water abstraction and includes methods and principles for setting minimum flows and allocation limits in a revised Freshwater and Land Management Plan. The study is based upon flow data across a sample of Taranaki waterways and provides a range of scenarios for setting minimum flows and allocation limits that would provide various levels of protection addressing fish habitat and the ecological health of rivers and streams.
- November 2018: Workshops and hui with iwi and stakeholders to discuss findings of the report *Review of Minimum Flows and Water Allocation in Taranaki* and discuss future limits for water allocation to be included in a revised Freshwater Plan.

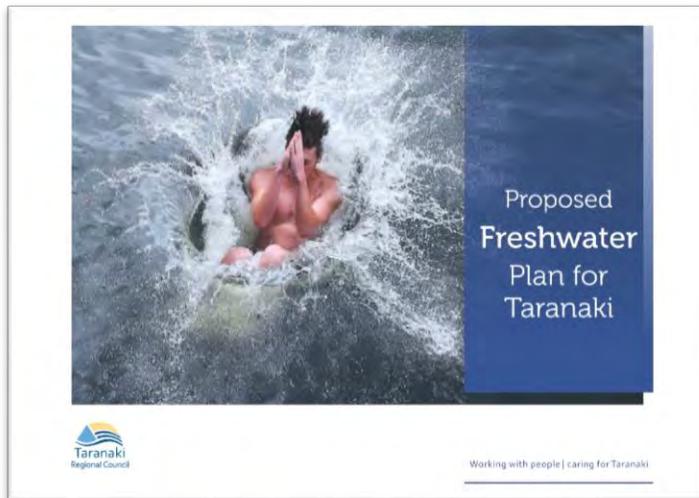


**The Taranaki Riparian Management Programme, involving the exclusion of livestock and the replanting of our riparian margins, is transforming the landscape while also maintaining and enhancing freshwater outcomes in the region as sought by the NPS-FM.**

### 3. Progressive NPS-FM implementation

The Council is implementing the NPS-FM using a variety of methods, in particular:

- Amendments to regional policy statement and plans and, in particular, the *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* and *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki*.
- Assessment of, and decisions on resource consent applications relating to freshwater resources.
- Non-regulatory and supporting initiatives that sit outside statutory documents and/or RMA consenting processes, e.g. riparian management programmes and monitoring.



The review of its current Freshwater Plan is a comprehensive exercise vital to giving full effect to the NPS-FM. A Proposed Plan is anticipated to be publicly notified by 2020 (or sooner if practicable).

#### Amending regional policy statement and plans

The Council has commenced a review of its *Regional Freshwater Plan for Taranaki* and *Regional Soil Plan for Taranaki*, which were made operative on 8 October 2001. As part of that review process the Council is seeking to prepare and adopt a *Freshwater and Soil Plan for Taranaki* to give effect to the NPS-FM and to incorporate the National Objectives Framework.

The Plan review can be broadly grouped into four key phases:

First, as part of early engagement in the review of its freshwater and soil plans, Council consulted with iwi and key stakeholders on freshwater management issues and major proposed changes, established a stakeholder focus group, commissioned research, and prepared a suite of technical documents and position papers that amongst other things informed the preparation of a draft Proposed Plan that, amongst other things, sought to give effect to legislative change factors such as NPS-FM.

Second, based upon that early engagement and preliminary work, on 1 May 2015, Council released and consulted on a draft Proposed Plan and sought feedback from tangata whenua and stakeholders. Comments received on the draft Plan highlighted some areas where the Council could usefully take more time to review and gather more information and work through issues with stakeholders in order to avoid or mitigate some of the uncertainties, costs and business risks associated with giving effect to the NPS-FM.

Third, as part of that ongoing plan development, Council is undertaking additional investigations and engagement to refine some of the new concepts and processes introduced by the 2014 and 2017 versions of the NPS-FM into a Proposed Plan, e.g. identification of freshwater management units, their values and attributes, the setting of

water quality and environmental flow limits, and the incorporation of the National Objectives Framework. There has also been an opportunity to take into account and respond to recent and proposed national policy initiatives, including promulgation of the *National Policy Statement for Urban Development Capacity* (2016), amendments to the RMA (2017), amendments to the NPS-FM, including incorporation of Te Mana o te Wai and amendments to NOF provisions, attributes and values (2017), promulgation of the *National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry* (2017), and national requirements for councils to set draft and final regional targets for swimmability (2018).

The fourth and final stage, is Council publicly notifying a Proposed Plan pursuant to Schedule 1 of the RMA and undertaking the formal process of public submissions/ further submissions, a hearing (if required), Council decisions, and resolution of any appeals to the Environment Court. Only after all appeals are resolved, and the Plan amended accordingly, can the Council then make the Plan operative.

In addition to the regional plan reviews, Council anticipates that implementation of some NPS-FM provisions will be further addressed as part of the review of the *Regional Policy Statement for Taranaki*. This is due to commence in 2020 but may occur earlier to align with regional plan provisions.<sup>2</sup>

The planning review processes contribute to giving particular effect<sup>3</sup> to the following NPS-FM objectives and policies:

*Te Mana o te Wai:* Objective AA1, Policy AA1

*Freshwater quality:* Objective A2, Objective A3, Policy A1, Policy A2, Policy A3, Policy A5, Policy A6

*Freshwater quantity:* Policy B1, Policy B2, Policy B3, Policy B6

*Integrated management:* Objective C1, Policy C1

*National Objectives Framework:* Objective CA1, Policy CA1, Policy CA2, Policy CA3, Policy CA4.

## Assessing resource consent applications

Through the current Freshwater Plan and associated resource consenting process, Council continues to assess and make decisions on applications relating to freshwater resources. In doing so, Council is giving effect to most water quality and quantity objectives and policies of the NPS-FM.

In March 2017, the Council prepared and released the document *Taranaki Regional Council Requirements for Good Farm Management*. The document sets out directions on freshwater and land management activities that captures the community's (and NPS-FM) expectations relating to the management of farm dairy effluent, riparian management, wetland protection, forestry, taking gravel. It is being given effect to through the consent process.

When assessing and making decisions on consent applications, Council is seeking to ensure best resource management practices and environmental improvement while it is undertaking its plan reviews. Of particular note are consenting requirements for the diversion of farm dairy effluent onto land where practicable, increased restrictions on small stream modifications or drainage of wetlands in Taranaki, and/or the inclusion of consent conditions promoting freshwater outcomes.

The current Plan and consenting process contributes to giving particular effect to the following NPS-FM objectives and policies:

*Freshwater quality:* Objective A1, Objective A2, Objective A4, Policy A4, Policy A7

*Freshwater quantity:* Objective B1, Objective B2, Objective B3, Objective B4, Objective B5, Policy B4, Policy B5, Policy B7, Policy B8

*Integrated management:* Objective C1, Policy C1, Policy C2

*Tangata whenua roles and interests:* Objective D1, Policy D1.

<sup>2</sup> As far as is practicable, Council will seek to integrate the Freshwater Plan review into the reviews of its Regional Policy Statement and its other (coastal, soil and air) plans, which are in progress or scheduled to commence shortly.

<sup>3</sup> Recognising that Council likely undertakes to be a plethora of activities that, to varying degrees, gives effect to different parts of the NPS-FM.

## Implementing other freshwater programmes

Council also implements a range of non-regulatory and supporting initiatives that, while sitting outside statutory documents and/or the consenting regime of the RMA, nevertheless give effect to various NPS-FM objectives and policies. They include:

- Implementation of extension programmes such as the Taranaki Riparian Programme<sup>4</sup>, the Sustainable Hill Country Programme<sup>5</sup>, the Wetlands Programme<sup>6</sup> and the Key Native Ecosystems Programme<sup>7</sup>.
- General liaison, advice and education with resource users and the wider target to promote behavioural changes and best practice that support the maintenance and enhancement of freshwater quality in the region and the protection of wetlands.
- Tangata whenua participation on Council standing committees relating to resource management.
- Environmental enhancement grant funding and other support and assistance to maintain and enhance biodiversity values, including the protection of wetlands and fish passage.
- Comprehensive state of the environment monitoring activities that, amongst other things, assess and report on freshwater issues and trends in the region. These programmes will need to be amended to give effect to a number of new concepts and requirements set out in the NPS-FM, particularly in association with monitoring the National Objectives Framework and the development and refinement of accounting systems for freshwater quality and quantity.

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<sup>4</sup> Targeting all intensively farmed land on the ring plain and coastal terraces.

<sup>5</sup> Targeting all erosion prone farmland in the eastern hill country.

<sup>6</sup> Targeting the active and passive protection of 77 scheduled regionally significant wetlands in Taranaki.

<sup>7</sup> Targeting the active and passive protection of all terrestrial sites and places in Taranaki with significant indigenous biodiversity values, including wetlands.

- Comprehensive compliance monitoring activities for abstractions from and discharges to surface and groundwater that, amongst other things, inform, assess and report on freshwater issues and trends in the region on a collective basis. These programmes can be interrogated to give effect to a number of new concepts and requirements set out in the NPS-FM, particularly in association with monitoring the National Objectives Framework and the development and refinement of accounting systems for freshwater quality and quantity.

In addition to the above, Council has also undertaken additional planning and reporting activities required by the NPS-FM. They include requirements to set regional targets for swimmability in Taranaki, and requirements to review and revise (if necessary) this progressive implementation programme and annually report on its implementation.

Other freshwater programmes contributes to giving particular effect to the following NPS-FM objectives and policies:

*Freshwater quality:* Objective A1, Objective A2, Policy A6, Policy A7

*Monitoring plans:* Objective CB1, Policy CB1, Policy CB2, Policy CB3, Policy CB4

*Accounting:* Objective CC1, Policy CC1, Policy CC2

*Tangata whenua:* Objective D1, Policy D1

*Progressive implementation programme:* Policy E1.

## Key milestones and activities and indicative timeframe for staged implementation of the NPS-FM

The Table below sets out the key activities and milestones and indicative timeframe for the staged implementation of the NPS-FM.

Financial year	Regional plan review	Freshwater consenting process	Other freshwater initiatives <sup>8</sup>
2018 – 2019	<p>Continue review of regional freshwater and soil plans (<i>Policy A1, B1, B2, B3, B4, B6, C1, CA1, CA2, CA3 and CA4</i>) and, in particular, undertake the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in November 2018, consult with iwi/hapū to inform development of a Mātauranga Māori monitoring plan (and revised Freshwater Plan provision) that establishes methods for monitoring Mātauranga Māori in freshwater management units (<i>Policy CB1(v)</i>)</li> <li>in association with the above, consult with iw/hapū on incorporating Te Mana o Te Wai into a Proposed Plan (<i>Policy AA1</i>)</li> <li>in November/December 2018, undertake environmental flow limits workshops with consultants, iwi/hapū, water users and other stakeholders to determine appropriate minimum flow and allocation limits for incorporating into a Proposed Plan (<i>Policy B1, B2, C1 and CA2</i>)</li> <li>in November/December 2018, undertake further consultation with iwi/hapū on the consideration of iwi values, including the identification of cultural sites of significance, in a Proposed Freshwater and Land Management Plan (<i>Policy AA1 and CA2</i>)</li> <li>in December 2018, finalise regional targets for swimmable rivers and lakes (<i>Policy A6</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Assess and make decisions on consent applications relating to freshwater resources and, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement Transitional Policies A4 and B7 of the NPS-FM</li> <li>assess 16 farm dairy effluent consent renewals in the Heimama, Hihiwera, Oaonui, Oeo, Okaweu, Punehu, Rawa, Wahamoko, Waiaua 2, Waikaretu and Waitaweta catchments to give effect to water quality policies of the NPS-FM (<i>Policy A2, A3 and A7</i>)</li> <li>generally require land-based disposal of dairy effluent through consent renewals (<i>Policy A2, A3 and A7</i>)</li> <li>assess other consent applications to discharge to land or water, to take water, or manage disturbance to the beds of rivers and lakes (<i>Policy A2, A3, A7 and B5</i>).</li> </ul>	<p>Implement other (non-regional plan development / consenting) freshwater initiatives and, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review and report on implementation of the 2015 version of the PIP (<i>Policy E1</i>)</li> <li>prepare and publicly notify a new PIP by 31 December 2018 (<i>Policy E1</i>)</li> <li>complete work on a freshwater quality accounting system by defining and identifying relevant sources of contaminants to be accounted for in each FMU (<i>Policy CC1 and CC2</i>)</li> <li>update and implement the Council's monitoring plan (<i>Policy CB1, CB2, CB3 and CB4</i>) and freshwater quality and quantity accounting systems (<i>Policy CC1 and CC2</i>) to implement 2017 amendments to the NPS-FM</li> <li>continue monitoring <i>E. coli</i> at primary contact sites (<i>Policy A5 and Appendix 5</i>)</li> <li>continue monitoring periphyton to inform a report following the regulatory minimum of at least three years of continuous monitoring</li> <li>continue preparation of riparian plans on all intensively farmed land</li> <li>liaise with 2,789 riparian plan holders to ensure that, by the end of the financial year 86% of waterways traversing intensively farmed land</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Note: Subject to public confirmation through long term planning processes.

Financial year	Regional plan review	Freshwater consenting process	Other freshwater initiatives <sup>8</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and confirm primary contact sites for inclusion in a Proposed Plan (<i>Policy A5 and Appendix 5</i>)</li> <li>continue work on the Section 32 RMA costs and benefits assessment for the Proposed Plan.</li> </ul>		<p>are fenced and that 72% of riparian margins are appropriately vegetated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ongoing implementation of soil conservation programme to reduce sediment loadings in eastern hill country rivers</li> </ul>
2019 – 2020	<p>Continue development of <i>Proposed Freshwater and Soil Plan for Taranaki</i> and, in particular develop draft Plan provisions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>take into account and, as far as is practicable, incorporate new Government policy directions, including proposed RMA amendments, amendments to the NPS-FM, and new national policy statements (e.g. indigenous biodiversity), national environmental standards and national planning standards</li> <li>incorporate freshwater management units for rivers, lakes and aquifers (<i>Policy CA1</i>)</li> <li>incorporate national objectives framework (<i>Policy A1, A2, A3, CA1, CA2, CA3 and CA4</i>)</li> <li>set regional freshwater quality limits and objectives (<i>Policy A5</i>)</li> <li>set regional environmental flow (minimum flows and allocation) limits (<i>Policy B1 and B2</i>)</li> <li>avoid over-allocation (<i>Policy B6</i>)</li> <li>incorporate Te Mana o te Wai (<i>Policy AA1</i>), including identification of sites of significance to Māori.</li> </ul> <p>Complete Section 32 RMA costs and benefits assessment for the Proposed Plan.</p>	<p>Assess and make decisions on applications relating to freshwater resources and, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement Transitional Policies A4 and B7 of the NPS-FM</li> <li>assess 107 farm dairy effluent consent renewals in the Hangatahua, Kahihi, Kapoiaia, Katikara, Maitahi, Matanehunehu, Moutoti, Okahu, Oneroa, Otahi, Otuhenua, Patea, Pitone, Pungaereere, Tangihapu, Teikaparua (Warea), Timaru, unnamed catchments 42, 49, 54, 57 and 58, Waoaua, Waihi, Waimoku, Waiongana, Wairongomai, Waitaha, Waitearata, Waitekaure, Waitotoroa, Waiweranui, Werekino, Whanganui and Whenuariki catchments to give effect to water quality policies of the NPS-FM (<i>Policy A2, A3 and A7</i>)</li> <li>generally require land-based disposal of dairy effluent through consent renewals (<i>Policy A2, A3, A7</i>)</li> <li>assess other consent applications to discharge to land or water, to take water, or manage disturbance to the beds of rivers and lakes (<i>Policy A2, A3, A7, B5</i>).</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of other (non-regional planning and consenting) programmes and, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>report on the implementation of the PIP 2018 (<i>Policy E1</i>)</li> <li>update and implement Council's monitoring plan (<i>Policy CB1, CB2, CB3 and CB4</i>) and freshwater quality and quantity accounting systems (<i>Policy CC1 and CC2</i>) to implement 2018 amendments to the NPS-FM*</li> <li>commence development of a Mātauranga Māori monitoring programme (<i>Policy CB1(v)</i>)</li> <li>commence development of a deposited sediment monitoring programme to give effect to proposed amendments to the NPSFM (<i>Appendix 2</i>)</li> <li>continue monitoring <i>E. coli</i> at primary contact sites (<i>Policy A5 and Appendix 5</i>)</li> <li>continue monitoring periphyton to inform a report following the regulatory minimum of at least three years of continuous monitoring</li> <li>continue preparation of riparian plans on all intensively farmed land</li> <li>liaise with 2,889 riparian plan holders to ensure that, by the end of the financial year, 87% of waterways traversing intensively farmed land are fenced and that 73% of riparian margins are appropriately vegetated</li> <li>ongoing implementation of soil conservation programme to reduce sediment loadings in eastern hill country rivers.</li> </ul>

Financial year	Regional plan review	Freshwater consenting process	Other freshwater initiatives <sup>8</sup>
2020/2021	<p>Notify a <i>Proposed Freshwater and Land Management Plan for Taranaki</i> under Schedule 1 of the RMA by December 2020.</p> <p>Continue Schedule 1 RMA process for <i>Proposed Freshwater and Land Management Plan for Taranaki</i>.</p> <p>Continue development of combined Regional Policy Statement and resource management plans (i.e. freshwater, land, air and coast) (Policy C1, C2).</p>	<p>Assess and make decisions on applications relating to freshwater resources and, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implement Transitional Policies A4 and B7 of the NPS-FM</li> <li>• assess 73 farm dairy effluent consent renewals in the Huatoki, Oakura, Oaonui, Okaweu, Otahi, Patea, Tapuae, Te Henui, Waiongana, Waiwhakaiho, Wairere, Waitara and Waiwhakaiho catchments to give effect to water quality policies of the NPS-FM (Policy A2, A3, A7)</li> <li>• generally require land-based disposal of dairy effluent through consent renewals (Policy A2, A3, A7)</li> <li>• assess other consent applications to discharge to land or water, to take water, or manage disturbance to the beds of rivers and lakes (Policy A2, A3, A7, B5).</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of other (non-regional planning and consenting) programmes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report on the implementation of the Progressive Implementation Programme 2018 (Policy E1)</li> <li>• prepare and publish five-yearly State of the Environment report including updated freshwater data (Policy CB4)</li> <li>• update and implement Council's monitoring plan (Policies CB1, CB2, CB3 and CB4) and freshwater quality and quantity accounting systems (Policies CC1 and CC2)</li> <li>• develop measures to give effect to the requirements for incorporation of Mātauranga Māori and health of indigenous flora/fauna into monitoring plans</li> <li>• continue monitoring <i>E. coli</i> at primary contact sites (Policy A5 and Appendix 5)</li> <li>• continue monitoring periphyton to inform a report following the regulatory minimum of at least three years of continuous monitoring</li> <li>• continue preparation of riparian plans on all intensively farmed land</li> <li>• liaise with riparian plan holders to ensure that, by the end of the financial year, 100% of waterways traversing intensively farmed land are appropriately fenced and that 90% of riparian margins are appropriately vegetated**</li> <li>• ongoing implementation of soil conservation programme to reduce sediment loadings in eastern hill country rivers.</li> </ul>
2021/2022	Full implementation of the NPS-FM (subject to public process outcomes)		

\* Completion of that task will depend upon timing of promulgation of the amended NPS-FM and other changes or amendments in national directions for freshwater management.

\*\* As per the targets in the Long Term Plan, which is for 100% of streams with riparian plans will be protected by fencing and 90% protected by vegetation where recommended.

## 4. Monitoring and review

In accordance with Policy E1(e) of the NPS-FM, the Council will review and annually report on the Programme's implementation for the preceding financial year.

If, as a result of the annual reporting of the Implementation Programme, the programme is not on schedule in accordance with the indicative timeline overleaf, the programme will be reviewed along with financial and resourcing requirements as part of the next Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.



Electric fishing, part of the Council's state of the environment monitoring that has recently been expanded to include the health and abundance of native fisheries

