

CONCEPT SHEET 1

The ABC (and D) of Freshwater Management Units

This is one of two concept sheets discussing how Taranaki waterways can be managed to meet the requirements of the Government's 2014 National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. See also Concept Sheet 2 on bottom lines and the National Objectives Framework.

The Government has directed Councils to group their regional waterways into 'Freshwater Management Units', with each unit to have its own objectives, limits and other management measures. Councils must also develop water-quality accounting systems for each unit to keep track of the type and amount of contaminants affecting its waterways.

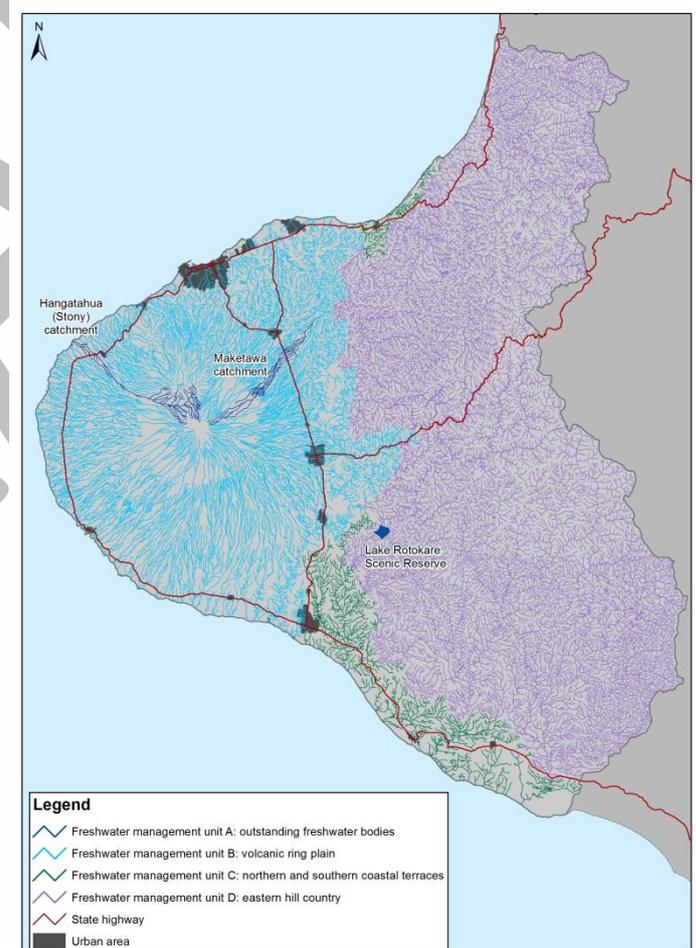
Reflecting the fact that geography, waterway quality, community aspirations and other factors can vary widely from region to region, Councils have a great deal of leeway in deciding how and where to define their Freshwater Management Units.

Taranaki's proposed Freshwater Management Units

Taranaki has 286 main river catchments and 530 named rivers. To avoid unnecessary complexity and keep management efficient and cost-effective, the Draft Freshwater and Land Plan proposes to divide these among four Freshwater Management Units, labelled A to D.

The units are based on shared values, land use and physical characteristics.

It's important not to confuse the Freshwater Management Units A-D with the quality bands A-D. See the separate concept sheet on bottom lines and the National Objectives Framework.





Hangatahua (Stony) River

Unit A – Outstanding freshwater bodies

Hangatahua (Stony) River: The Stony is the only braided river in Taranaki and the largest and most prominent river carrying water from the mountain to the sea. It has long been protected from the impact of most human activity and has high native fish diversity, including threatened species. It also has high cultural significance to local iwi.

The Maketawa catchment immediately upstream of but excluding the Ngatoro Stream catchment: The Maketawa is a smaller ring plain river which is highly valued for angling. It also provides important habitat for threatened native species.

Both the above water bodies are protected in the current Plan.

Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve: The 17.8ha Lake Rotokare was formed after a landslide and is fed entirely by natural springs, with one outlet at the western end of the lake running into the Ararata Stream. It is one of the few protected natural areas remaining between the Taranaki ring plain and the eastern hillcountry. It has cultural significance and, thanks to the efforts of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust, it is an increasingly valuable habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

Unit B – waterways on Mount Taranaki and the ring plain

Dairying is the predominate land use in this unit, which also includes New Plymouth and other urban areas. Waterways in these short, steep and relatively small catchments rise and fall rapidly in response to rainfall. The catchments are small and subject to relatively high consumption and waste discharge pressures, especially compared with those in the eastern hillcountry.

Unit C – waterways on the northern and southern coastal terraces

Land in this unit is typically farmed intensively, with a greater demand for irrigation. The southern coastal terraces, between

the Tangahoe River and Patea River, have predominately short, small spring-fed streams that originate within the coastal terraces and discharge over the coastal cliff face as waterfalls. The northern coastal terraces include the lower reaches of rivers that originate within the eastern hillcountry and which are subject to large tidal ranges and naturally high sediment loads.

Unit D – waterways in the eastern hillcountry

The land in this unit is predominately used for drystock farming and plantation forestry, with a large proportion of the area in natural land cover. The waterways are typically deeply incised rivers fed by short, steep tributaries. The rivers have a branchlike drainage pattern and generally carry a relatively high sediment load as a result of the steep, easily erodible geology.

Feedback and more information

Go to www.trc.govt.nz/draft-plan to find:

- The Draft Freshwater and Land Plan in full.
- A summary and background document.
- Info sheets and background papers.
- An online form for giving us feedback.

You can also send us your feedback by emailing info@trc.govt.nz or writing to the Council at Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352. Or contact the Council's freshwater planning team directly by calling 0800 736 222. We can give you more information, take your feedback or arrange a meeting.

Our deadline for feedback is Friday 26 June.

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