

**Report to Collaborative Stakeholder Group
28 – 29 April 2016**

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Date: 21 April 2016
To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group
From: Director Resource Use
Subject: **Update on HRWO implementation planning**

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) on Waikato Regional Council's (WRC) implementation planning progress for Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai (HRWO).

Recommendation:

1. That the report "**Update on HRWO implementation planning**" (Doc # 3772056 dated 19 April 2016) be received for information.

Implementation plan scoping

WRC is in the initial stages of the development of a detailed implementation plan to support the outcomes sought through HRWO and ensure that implementation activities are efficiently and effectively delivered for the regional community.

The purpose of the implementation plan will be to identify and set out the detailed activities, costs, resourcing, collaborative implementation opportunities, expected difficulties (risks and dependencies), and programming for the activities required to support the implementation of HRWO. The plan will seek to build on the significant work of the property plan subgroup in respect of implementation.

To date WRC has developed a draft scope for the plan identifying;

- The key business activities required to support implementation – including for example, internal system/process requirements, IT infrastructure, integration with external agencies and internal business support functions.
- Project management framework for the implementation plan development.
- Costs, funding and a programme for the implementation plan development.

Attachment A provides a draft summary of the cross directorate activities identified in the scope that are likely to be required to support implementation.

The plan scope will be further refined during May, with the implementation plan proposed for completion in December 2016. Completion of the plan within this timeframe is based on current targeted delivery programme for HRWO.

Stakeholder and CSG member involvement

A significant proportion of the actions and business activities required to support the implementation of HRWO will need to occur outside WRC, most notably in reference to the development and ongoing implementation of farm planning.

Key industry stakeholders will therefore need to be formally engaged in the development of the implementation plan. Discussions with stakeholders around integration into the project structure will take place in May once the final policy mix is confirmed.

Potential implementation phasing

Initial work has also been undertaken at a high level on a potential implementation strategy and phasing for the first 10 year period. A series of “implementation phases” is proposed, linked to the proposed HRWO tranches as follows;

Phase 1: System and process development – mid 2016 to end 2017

- Complete implementation plan.
- Develop essential systems and processes required to support implementation.
- Communicating and engaging with key stakeholders and landowners on the requirements of the plan change and the support available to assist.
- Registering properties within the relevant catchments.
- Reference point data collection.

Phase 2: Registration and accreditation - start 2017 to end 2018

- Accreditation for external farm plan providers.
- Registration of accredited industry schemes.

Phase 3: Priority 1 sub-catchments – start 2018 to end 2019

- Engagement with sub-catchment communities
- Developing and approving farm plans
- Processing consents

Phase 4: Priority 2 sub-catchments – start 2020 to end 2022

- Engagement with sub-catchment communities
- Developing and approving farm plans
- Processing consents

Phase 5: Priority 3 sub-catchments – start 2023 to end 2026

- Engagement with sub-catchment communities
- Developing and approving farm plans
- Processing consents

Supporting monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities will occur from the end of Phase 1 through to 2026.

The phasing and detailed activities within each will be subject to further testing/refinement through the implementation plan development process and will also remain dependent on the following;

1. Confirmation of the final policy mix by the CSG and HRWC by end of May.
2. WRC approving the HRWO Plan Change for notification in July.
3. The potential for significant changes to HRWO as a result of the schedule 1 process.

Summary

A further update on implementation planning and progress will be provided at the next CSG workshop.

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Place Group Limited

Chris McLay
Director, Resource Use

Attachment A: Summary of implementation business activities –DRAFT ONLY

DRAFT ONLY

Business activity	Activity description	Lead WRC Directorate/s	External agency involvement	Part of WRC BAU
Regulatory activities				
Accreditation	Systems and processes related to accreditation of farm planning providers and nitrogen benchmarking platforms/providers and including the implementation of accreditation activities.	RUD, ICM	Y	N
Auditing	Systems and processes for auditing of farm plans under permitted activity rules including the implementation of required audit activities.	RUD	Y	N
Registration	Process and systems required to register all properties within the Waipa and Waikato catchments to establish a baseline for monitoring and consenting. Includes implementation of registration activities.	RUD	Y	N
Consent Processing	New systems required for processing of consent applications and the processing of applications.	RUD	N	Y
Enforcement	Processes and systems to enforce rule breaches and conditions of consent, including the implementation of enforcement activities.	RUD	N	Y
Compliance Monitoring	Monitoring of consents compliance and compliance with permitted activity rules.	RUD	N	Y
Regulatory support activities				
Training	Assistance with training for farm planners to reach accreditation standard. Training for staff on new IT systems. Training for staff on new processes.	ICM/RUD/CS	Y	N
Information, communication and advice - consents and compliance	Communication and stakeholder engagement required to support plan change consenting and compliance requirements.	RUD	N	Y
Information, communication and advice - farm planning	Communications and stakeholder engagement required to support the development of farm plans and compliance.	ICM	Y	Y
Information, communication and advice - policy	Communication and stakeholder engagement required to assist interpretation of policy framework. Preparation and adoption of policy guidance notes.	SAS	N	Y

Support for farm plan preparation. - IT systems - Processes	Systems and processes to support development and preparation of farm plans. Development of IT systems for landowners to provide farm plan and reference point data.	ICM/CS	Y	Y
Farm plan - quality assurance	Reviewing of farm plans for quality control.	ICM	Y	N
Communications	Proactive communication to support plan change implementation, including outcomes of effectiveness monitoring.	SAS	Y	N
Data management	Databases required to capture farm plan and landuse data and integrate across WRC and with externals.	CS	Y	Y
Plan Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting	Monitoring of plan effectiveness, ie whether the plan will meet its targets. Reporting of outcomes publically.	RUD, CS and SAS	N	Y