Waikato Regional Council Policy Series 2023/21

Te Arotake Kaupapahere Waimāori – Te rīpoata a te haere a ngā rōpū hapori

Freshwater Policy Review – Citizen reference groups progress report - 2023

www.waikatoregion.govt.nz
ISSN : 2230-4339 (Print)
ISSN : 2230-4347 (Online)

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

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Publication date: November 2023

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Kōrero whakataki | Executive summary

This report provides an overview of the feedback that has been received so far (to August 2023) from the sessions held with the Citizen Reference Groups (CRGs). These groups were formed in an advisory capacity as part of community engagement for the Freshwater Policy Review (FPR), to provide additional community voices that could inform policy development and test directions or options. Membership was sought based on experience and knowledge, while aiming for a range of backgrounds and perspectives.

A total of five groups have been formed, aligned with the boundaries of the indicative Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). One group has been formed for all of the Waikato-Waipā FMUs. The formation of the groups included an open Expression of Interest process, and selection by a staff panel.

To date, three workshops have been held for both the Waikato-Waipā and Hauraki CRGs and two have taken place for the Coromandel, West Coast, and Taupō areas. The process is intended to cover key elements of the National Policy Statement- Freshwater Management (2020) planning framework, including the steps of the National Objectives Framework (NOF). The topics covered during the sessions to date have included Te Mana o te Wai, Long-term Visions, sharing freshwater monitoring data, target attribute setting, and accelerating positive change.

CRG members typically expressed agreement with the overall concept of Te Mana o te Wai. Most believed that members of the public would also provide their support. Differences in opinion, however, are likely to take place during discussions of how to achieve this goal. During later workshops, participants were presented with a draft objective for Te Mana o te Wai and were asked to give their feedback. While the majority agreed with the intent of the policy, they commented that a lot of rewording/rephrasing was necessary. The most common concern related to the vagueness of the clauses and lack of specificity/clarity. Respondents often asked that definitions be provided for some of the terms used – for example, what was meant by 'sufficient' water quality and quantity.

When presented with material outlining the visions and values that were identified during the first round of engagement (and literature reviews), CRG members generally expressed their agreement. Long-term Visions were drafted for each FMU and provided during later sessions. Similar to the draft objective for Te Mana o te Wai, participants requested that greater clarity and specificity be provided, including definitions for several concepts/terms. Concern was expressed that the vagueness of the outcomes could result in them being misinterpreted or abused in the future. Participants emphasised the importance of who gets to interpret this policy and give effect to it. Disagreement arose regarding the timeframes provided. While some CRG members felt that we could act sooner and advocated for shorter timelines, others believed that an extended timeframe was necessary.

When discussing principles for setting target attributes, most of the CRG members agreed with the overarching principle of maintenance or improvement. WRC was cautioned against taking a 'one size fits all' approach and respondents stressed the importance of considering the unique circumstances of each (sub)catchment. Participants also urged WRC to be 'realistic' with goal setting and to remember to include/expect lag times. Continual monitoring and expanded monitoring were viewed as extremely important and there were repeated comments that the goals WRC set and the approach taken be based upon scientific evidence.

With regards to accelerating positive change, CRG members once again emphasised the importance of monitoring and the use of science to guide policy. Some recommended that the initial focus should

be identifying the areas where the greatest change could be made, while others suggested that the focus should be moving in the right direction rather than trying to meet certain requirements. There was acknowledgement that rules and limits will need to be put in place, especially for certain industries or activities. Monitoring of these regulations and enforcement were seen as significant factors. The CRG members also stressed the importance of encouraging community engagement and participation with freshwater management.

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1 He tīmatanga kōrero | Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Citizen Reference Group (CRG) process to date (August 2023). The first section discusses the purpose of the CRGs, how members were recruited and selected, and the structure of the CRG workshops. The second section summarises the thoughts and feedback provided by the CRG members so far.

1.1 What are Citizen Reference Groups?

Citizen or Community Reference groups are a way for those with lived experiences in a particular demographic area or community to have a voice. They allow for specific parts of the community to provide feedback on council activities; for example, planning, developing, or delivering services and programmes. Within New Zealand, CRGs have been used by both local and central government organisations. For example, Palmerston North City Council created a Disability Reference Group in 2018, and in 2022 set up both a Pasifika Reference Group and a Seniors Reference Group. Similarly, to acquire feedback on the Regional Policy Statement, the Otago Regional Council established eleven reference groups to discuss a variety of issues. In 2019, the central government formed a community reference group to support the Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission. In order to engage with perspectives from New Zealand's migrant communities and inform medium term priorities, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment established the Migrant Community Reference Group in 2023.

1.2 Purpose of the Citizen Reference Groups (within the Freshwater Policy Review)

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) is reviewing its Waikato Regional Plan (WRP) and Regional Policy Statement (WRPS), in response to central government direction set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) 2020 and within it, the stepwise process of the National Objectives Framework (NOF). In achieving the objective of the NPS-FM, Policy 3 and 5 requires that freshwater is managed through the NOF, to ensure that the health and well-being of degraded waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems is improved and considers the effects of the use and development of land on a whole-of-catchment basis, including the effects on receiving environments. As part of the process, WRC was interested in seeking input to inform and fine-tune the policy direction for different parts of the region (Freshwater Management Units or FMUs – see Appendix A). Suitably interested, and/or experienced persons were sought to participate in a series of sub-regional CRG meetings. Sub-regional CRGs were aligned with proposed Freshwater Management Units boundaries in the region, with all of the Waikato-Waipā FMUs combined. That is, there is a CRG for Waikato-Waipā, Hauraki, Coromandel, West Coast, and Lake Taupō.

The objectives for the Citizen Reference Groups were to:

- Provide input into policy direction, based on the knowledge and experience members bring about the local area, community and resource use, and considering the best available information from a range of knowledge bases (science, mātauranga Māori and community input).
- Consider the issues, current state of the environment, pressures on freshwater systems, obligations, technical information and input from tangata whenua and community engagement, as a basis for input into options to policy outcomes for freshwater and ecosystems.

- Alongside WRC staff, relate this local information and personal knowledge to the requirements and frameworks of the NPS-FM and the NOF, including the overarching principle of Te Mana o te Wai.
- For the Waikato-Waipā catchments, Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River – is the primary direction-setting document for all freshwater policy. This provides direction for the Citizen Reference Group working in these catchments, who will also consider the Waikato and Waipā chapter of the WRP where proposed Plan Change 1 (PC1) changes need to be expanded and aligned to the NPS-FM 2020. This process has no input into the PC1 appeals.
- Provide advice about engagement avenues to take emerging policy directions to local communities for further input.
- Consider the input from the community gained through WRC's engagement and provide further suggestions to refine the policy direction.

1.3 CRG member recruitment and selection process

For recruitment, advertisements were place within newspapers briefly describing the purpose of the CRGs and interested parties were referred to the 'Expression of Interest' form and Terms of Reference (see Appendix B). After expressions of interest were submitted, a panel of three WRC staff reviewed the applications to select the CRG members. The membership selection was based on experience and knowledge, while aiming for a range of backgrounds and perspectives. The selection criteria included:

- Having an intimate understanding or knowledge of the local area relevant to freshwater management.
- Having community connections across a number of associated networks.
- Having the ability to participate in the facilitated discussion and supporting tools if this needed to be held online i.e. video conference meeting.

1.4 Workshops formatting and structure

A total of 19 workshops were planned to take place throughout the Freshwater Policy Review engagement process. Two of the CRGs – Waikato-Waipā and Hauraki – were scheduled to complete a total of five in-person workshops. The three remaining groups – Taupo, West Coast, Coromandel – were scheduled to complete a total of three workshops, with the first and last of these being done in person and the second conducted online. The Waikato-Waipā and Hauraki FMUs were assigned a greater number of sessions as they were perceived to have the most complex issues to deal with and considerable challenges in meeting national bottom lines across several attributes. Appendix 'C' contains a table showing the dates, times, and locations of all 19 sessions; and the table in Appendix 'D' provides a broad overview of the topics discussed during each workshop. This report summarises the first three sessions with the Hauraki and Waikato-Waipā FMUs and the first two sessions for the Coromandel, West Coast, and Taupō FMUs.

2 Te Wae Whakahaere Waimāori a Taupō | Taupō FMU

For the Taupō CRG, eight people were included in this group. The range of interests in this group include backgrounds and experience in dairy farming, farming, Taupō Lake Care, Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board trustee, Biosecurity NZ, farm trusts, recreational fishing, hunting and other activities, and Taupō Climate Action Group.

2.1 Workshop one

Of the eight people chosen, six attended the first Taupō CRG workshop. The first workshop focused on: 1) members introducing themselves and their relevant backgrounds and experience; 2) providing background information regarding the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the purpose/role of the CRGs; 3) discussing the concept of Te Mana o te Wai; 4) discussing visions and values; and 5) briefly reviewing the current state of freshwater within the FMU.

When asked if any voices were missing from the room (who might have valuable insights), it was identified that there was an absence of holiday homeowners and tourists.

2.1.1 Te Mana o te Wai

After reading about the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and the feedback that was provided by the Taupō community in the first round of engagement, the group was asked to provide their thoughts and reflections on the topic.

Taupō was identified by group participants as the essence and life force of the region. If the lake is not cared for, this will cascade down and create problems (e.g. difficulties with tourism). *Te Manawa o te Ika a Māui* – Lake Taupō is the "heart of the fish" (i.e. the North Island). It must be healthy for the whole great fish (Ika) to be healthy. CRG members noted that certain things affect the Taupō FMU specifically; for example, managing the lake, trout fishing, and foreshore nutrient management (in particular, phosphorus). There was recognition that there needs to be a balance regarding farming prosperity and economic needs.

Since we are 70% water, water was seen to be a reflection of ourselves – if the water is 'good and healthy', so are we. It was acknowledged that we are only on the planet for a short time and the actions we take to improve freshwater are done for the benefit of future generations.

2.1.2 Visions and values

CRG members were provided with summaries from previous engagement and literature reviews outlining visions and values for freshwater (management) within the Taupō FMU.

After reviewing tangata whenua perspectives regarding long-term visions, Taupō CRG members expressed that they enjoyed seeing previous comments and earlier information as it helped to ensure that they weren't simply 'reinventing the wheel'. Agreement was expressed for the outcomes identified in the tangata whenua literature review for long-term visions. It was also stated that including tangata whenua perspectives helps to ensure there is a healthy Lake Taupō available to support the whole community. CRG members noted that the feedback failed to acknowledge that Taupō passes quality water down-stream to whānau in the Lower Waikato.

With regards to the feedback from previous Taupō community workshops, CRG members expressed that water indicators can vary for many different reasons, and we must take care to ensure that they are analysed properly. Specifically, it was noted that the age of the water and lag impact need to be taken into consideration. In reference to the comment from Round 1 community engagement that there should be '10% improvements across all water indicators by 2034', CRG members noted that some areas may require greater improvement while others may need less. It was also pointed out that, according to scientists, we won't know until 2080 whether Variation 5 has worked. CRG members questioned whether landowners who fence off wetlands at high elevations will receive an incentive. The importance of educational opportunities and youth participation were also emphasised.

CRG members were also presented with feedback from Round 1 stakeholder engagement undertaken at a regional level. Those who attended the workshop 'really liked' the concept of sustainable use of water that allows the water to contribute to the well-being of communities. CRG members also agreed with the concepts of better water management, allowing timeframe and options for stakeholders, and prioritising of food production. Given the exposure to more weather events, however, it was noted that food production may need to take place in diverse catchments. Concern was expressed for the effect of wild fowl (e.g. swans and Canadian geese) on water quality. It was also noted that some effort is required to actively manage or eradicate aquatic pest plants (e.g., lagarosiphon/hornwort).

2.1.3 State of freshwater in Taupō

Like other FMUs, the Taupo CRG members were provided with several posters that discussed different freshwater attribute measures for their area. Only one written comment was provided. Specifically, on the water quality poster, it was asked what impact pollen had on this attribute.

2.2 Workshop two

The second Taupō workshop was attended by six people in total. This online workshop focused on presenting draft objectives developed by the policy team and seeking feedback from CRG members. Four topics of interest were discussed: 1) Te Mana o te Wai; 2) Long-term Visions; 3) setting attribute target states; and 4) what is needed to accelerate positive change for freshwater in the Taupō FMU.

2.2.1 Te Mana o te Wai – Draft objective

After being presented with the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective (see Appendix E), the feedback provided by the Taupō CRG members was a mixture of general comments about the overall objective and thoughts on specific clauses.

While it was stated that the words of the objective 'seem fine', there were questions as to how the draft objective relates to the hierarchy of use with energy generation, and the different Treaty Settlements relating to the lake and river. It was noted that water availability can be affected by management of the system from the mountains to the end of the hydro-electricity system. CRG members questioned how WRC would cross-reference the objectives with different national interests and iwi interests.

For Clause (1.iii), agreement was expressed with the statement "*Effects of human activities affect the health and wellbeing*" but there was also comment that 'acts of god' still cause issues (for example, flooding, rivers changing pathways over time), "*so don't load it all completely on humans*". It was stated that the draft objective should allow for some wider factors.

In reference to Clause (3), there were concerns with the wording "*Provided it is allocated and used efficiently.*" It was noted that a large percentage of the water down to the dams is controlled by hydro generation companies and it was questioned whether this was the best use of that water.

2.2.2 Long-term vision – Draft objective

Taupō CRG members gave the following feedback when presented with the draft long-term vision for their FMU (see Appendix F). In reference to Clause (f), it was asked if 10% was arbitrary (*'finger in the air'*) and whether the focus should be on specific matters for specific waterways. It was noted that some areas will be a lot worse than others, so 10% change will be easier in certain places. Some CRG members questioned if 10% was aspirational enough and asked if it would be rolled out across the whole region. In reference to Clause (h), it was noted that the 'and' in the phrase "*rehabilitated and restored*" should be changed to an 'or' – in order to recognise the difference between the two ("*because we might not be able to do both"*). For Clauses (f) and (h), it was asked if the term 'degraded' was defined in the NPS-FM. It was pointed out that, when talking about Taupō, there may not be anything defined as degraded; *"We're in the upper reach of the catchment, probably not too many issues"*.

More general feedback was also provided. There was comment that "*long term economic viability of communities*" should also be included in the long-term vision for Taupō. In terms of scope of the vision, the question was asked "*does it capture natural character as well as water quality?"* The CRG members stated that Lake Taupō "*seems to be getting more and more use*" and it was queried how much pressure this puts on maintaining the lake where it already is. Other things (rules and regulations) may need to be put in place to make up for the extra pressure. There was comment that WRC needed to be realistic because of outside pressures and to think carefully about how to handle these pressures.

2.2.3 Setting attribute target states

Taupō CRG members were provided with some examples of possible approaches for setting target attribute states for their local freshwater (see Appendix N). It was expressed that both the long- and short-term targets appear to be realistic. Participants advised that while progress will be measured at monitoring sites, water quality at these sites will be affected by what is taking place upstream. CRG members commented that the weather will have an influence over water quality, and this should be taken into consideration – for example, rainfall impacts nutrient loads. Similarly, improvements in some attributes will be delayed by environmental lag times. It is important for the community to understand the concepts of lag times and realisable targets. Given that there will be considerable monitoring requirements across the region, the CRG members saw this as an opportunity for WRC to make use of citizen science.

A number of questions were also raised in reference to the topic of setting target attribute states. CRG members wanted to know if water quality has been measured in all streams to provide a baseline and whether that information was available to them. There was interest in how the monitoring system was designed to be representative, whether the number of monitoring sites was appropriate, and how small of an area with a stream would be considered for the target states. In reference to the Macroinvertebrate Community Index or MCI (and biota), it was queried if weather event effects (both short- and long-term) were accounted for in these measures.

2.2.4 State of the environment and accelerating positive change

CRG members were provided with a brief summary of the state of freshwater within Taupō and then asked what the Freshwater Policy Review should focus on to accelerate positive change. It was stated that policy is needed at a regional level to reduce nutrient loss.

WRC was advised that ecosystem health indicators such as MCI integrate several stressors, so it is difficult to determine which stressor is acting at a given site. In reference to macroinvertebrates, it was stated that they are sensitive to temperature, so shade has an influence. The substrate in the stream was also viewed as important, along with the nutrients and algae. That being said, it was

acknowledged that WRC needs to be careful with unintended consequences. For example, while shading a stream may be beneficial for MCI, it may reduce the nutrient stripping, and the Taupō CRG members were interested in long-term effects of riparian restoration in this regard. *"Curious about succession of riparian restoration - overall stream health valued vs nutrient reduction by water cress etc e.g. Whangamata stream what are long term results showing?"*

CRG members asked what a realistic score to aim for would be (given that the Waikato region has a highly mobile bed). It was noted that the A band score is set at a national level, so there is no allowance for a different potential.

The extensive history of soil conservation plantings in Taupō waterways gave rise to several comments from group members, for example *"Some of the original plantings are midway through their 2nd rotation now. Some have been left to revert."* CRG members suggested moving away from engineered willow control to allowing for river adjustment and native planting. It was asked whether there has been any attempt to change from harvestable species to native long-term planting alongside streams.

3 Te Wae Whakahaere Waimāori a te Tai Hauāuru | West Coast FMU

A total of five people were selected for the West Coast CRG. The range of interests include backgrounds and experience in drystock farming, NZ Conservation Authority and Waikato Conservation Board, King Country Rivercare, past Waitomo district councillor, farm consultant, environment consultant, Mirumiru Paa ki Marokopa – Environment team, education, Raglan climate action, NIWA, Department of Conservation, Harbour care, Whaingaroa Environment Group.

3.1 Workshop one

Of the five people selected, four attended the first West Coast CRG workshop and the final member sent their apologies. The first workshop focused on: 1) members introducing themselves and their relevant backgrounds and experience; 2) providing background information regarding the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the purpose/role of the CRGs; 3) discussing the concept of Te Mana o te Wai; 4) discussing visions and values; and 5) briefly reviewing the current state of freshwater within the FMU.

3.1.1 Te Mana o te Wai

After reading about the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and the feedback that was provided by the West Coast community during the first round of engagement, the group was asked to provide their thoughts and reflections on the topic.

CRG members expressed agreement with the ideas and concepts captured during the first round of engagement and noted that it was encouraging to see the overlap and variety in perspectives across the West Coast FMU. Three concepts that were specifically referred to were: 1) restoring natural resources so that they can be utilised for 'food, art and everything we need'; 2) the perspective that, just as humans have a bed, the water also has a bed and if it is in good condition, it will be happy and healthy in this bed and so we too can rest peacefully in our beds; and 3) the concept that farms have mana if well looked after. It was observed that, in past feedback, there was lack of mātauranga Māori and this limited whose voice was being heard.

It was agreed that most people "*want to do good stuff"* and will buy into the concept of Te Mana o te Wai. There was concern, however, that people within the community may only focus their energies on '*personal action'* rather than recognising that individuals should both do what they can and collectively work together to address these issues. There was discussion regarding whether a blanket approach (applying something to everywhere/ one size fits all) should be adopted or if funding should be targeted to the worst/ greatest risk areas (for example, where there is high erosion risk).

The West Coast CRG members were interested in knowing who would do the various parts of the FPR process. It was stated that we are all on a new journey and things need to be put into perspective and it is important that WRC share information with the public so that they may understand what they will actually be required to do.

3.1.2 Visions and values

West Coast CRG members were presented with information pertaining to visions and values that was collected during the first round of community, stakeholder, and tangata whenua engagement- and then asked to provide their thoughts. It was noted that it is important that tangata whenua landowners are consulted and/or involved in the decision-making process. Māori feedback was

viewed as crucial. Furthermore, it was repeatedly expressed that mātauranga Māori practices needed to be incorporated and used alongside modern Western scientific approaches to freshwater management and care.

Some CRG members expressed that there needs to be caution regarding certain large goals (for example, the notion that everything is 'sustainable'). In addition, it was suggested that goals should be made along the way (multiple smaller goals leading up to the eventual bigger goal). In relation to this, there was comment that planning should be done with little steps (it was likened to prepping for a marathon). It was noted that it is important to balance economic, cultural, and spiritual priorities.

CRG members expressed that communities believe it is a normal part of their civic duty to understand and take part in council plan updates, as well as look after water. They considered that communities are well equipped and supported to engage at a high level on council matters like the NPS-FM. It is important for information to be shared between councils and the community in a healthy two-way dialogue. There are people to support this process and it is part of 'business as usual'.

It was felt that if the land and the water are well, the people will be well – which emphasises the need to put the ecosystem first. CRG members believed that it was important to make sure that the coastal plan and NPS-FM are connected - so that freshwater is clean for the estuary. They also stated that improvements that are made need to be sustainable. One CRG member noted that it would be good for both people and the environment for the level of kai in the water to be improved.

When discussing the topic of hydro-generation, there was comment that past experiences had been unpleasant, and the current process required fixing.

3.1.3 State of freshwater in the West Coast

A series of posters were bought to the workshops outlining key measurements of freshwater health in the West Coast FMU. CRG members were provided with post-it notes and pens to give their feedback. When reviewing a poster that focused on bacteria in streams, CRG members felt that there should be fewer but better septic tanks. On that same poster, it was noted that sheep and beef make it harder to fence streams, and other land uses are needed within farmlands.

On a poster describing the Whaingaroa Harbour, it was noted that water quality data was a snapshot in time and that it would be good to see trends over time.

On posters describing stream ecosystems, CRG members questioned how Māori science was integrated and used in measuring key indicators. It was also queried what the natural difference was for MCI between steep, short-fetch streams and longer, flatter streams, and how has MCI changed in short streams versus flatter streams.

In reference to the topic of erosion, there was comment that mātauranga practices could help with erosion control.

On the poster discussing riparian management, it was explained that particular considerations need to be taken into account for the West Coast – e.g., topography, higher percentage of sheep, lower percentage of dairy, rules and practicality.

3.1.4 Final reflections

West Coast CRG members felt that the issue was not at the high level – the majority of people agree with the aspirations expressed (in Te Mana o te Wai and visions and values) – but "*the devil is in the detail*". It was suggested that WRC avoid using '*confusing legalese*' as it can discourage people who

want to reach the same goal. There was recognition that a lot of change will be required of councils and farmers, and it will be hard to get that done for the '*next little while*' but most people will get there. It is important to acknowledge the connections between inland and coast. Emphasis was placed on the need to incorporate mātauranga Māori throughout the process.

3.2 Workshop two

The second West Coast workshop was attended by five people. This online workshop focused on presenting draft objectives developed by the policy team and seeking feedback from CRG members. Four topics of interest were discussed: 1) Te Mana o te Wai; 2) Long-term Visions; 3) setting attribute target states; and 4) what is needed to accelerate positive change in the freshwater of the West Coast.

3.2.1 Te Mana o te Wai – Draft objective

After being presented with the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective (see Appendix E), the feedback provided by the West Coast CRG members was a mixture of general comments about the overall objective and thoughts on specific clauses.

In reference to the overall draft Te Mana o te Wai objective, CRG members considered how this fits into the current freshwater management system. The health and well-being of water should be paramount, as established by Te Mana o te Wai. The role of kaitiakitanga (stewardship) is fundamental to the management of water, as is effective partnership and engagement with Māori, stakeholders, and communities. Water management must be sustainable for the well-being of present and future generations. As one member stated, *"The management of water-related risks, including natural hazards and climate change, is essential for the well-being of communities."* An essential part of effective management is regular monitoring and reporting on the state of water resources. It was also stated that more research needs to be done to determine the impact of nitrogen from forestry and the effects of mass planting of pine trees.

In reference to Clause (1), concern was expressed regarding sufficient quantity and quality. There was comment that "*too much forestry in a watershed can use up to 40% of water*" and there were fears that we will not have enough water. At the beginning of the clause, the terms 'health, resilience and wellbeing' are used – CRG members questioned where these came from. It was suggested that rather than sustaining generations' connections with freshwater, we should be aspirational and aim to grow or build these connections (for the connections to be stronger than the ones we have right now). CRG members questioned what the term 'restoration' means, what is achievable and what is aspirational, and how far back to go as a benchmark for the goal. Natural factors were pointed out: "Do we recognise that erosion was happening before mankind arrived?" In terms of management of land and water on a 'whole of catchment' basis, it was questioned where to put resources – across the entire catchment or prioritise putting them into areas where the greatest gain can be achieved?

With regards to Clause (2), West Coast CRG members were curious if the information presented to them (in the form of draft objectives) was a collation of the information collected so far from consultations. In reference to the word 'enabled', CRG members questioned what the thinking was around that wording. It was recommended that clarification regarding the clause be provided. CRG members asked if there is any part of Te Mana o te Wai where there will be a connection with Te Tiriti. It was noted that tangata whenua should already be able to participate and that the Principles of Te Tiriti would ensure that tangata whenua are not just participating – they are part of the decision-making.

For Clause (3), concern was expressed regarding sufficient quantity and quality. The comment was made that there needs to be sustainable allocation and use of water. The CRG members also asked

what will happen when, for example, '*humans are thirsty*.' It was thought *"there needs to be a compromise process around the 100% well-being of the stream."* Furthermore, water management must use an integrated approach which recognises the interconnectedness of water, land, and people; The health and well-being of freshwater ecosystems is essential to the health and well-being of people and communities. Both water quality and quantity are essential for ecosystem health and human health.

In terms of Clause (4), concern was expressed regarding sufficient quantity and quality. It was stated that targets are important and need to be established. The CRG members recommended incorporating economic considerations into the clause. It was asked if WRC could incorporate "*some wording in there around Ki Uta Ki Tai to get the message across that even though this is about freshwater management, there is a link with our harbours and estuaries, and the attributes we set for our freshwater will have an impact on our harbour and estuaries.*" One member noted that the broader community is more likely to place greater value on the harbours than minor streams further up in the valley.

3.2.2 Long-term vision – Draft objective

West Coast CRG members gave the following feedback when presented with the draft long-term vision for their FMU (see Appendix G).

Some comments provided more general feedback on the draft long-term vision. One individual expressed concerns regarding the cost of the government's new water entities, how these changes will be paid for, and also what the cost will be in the future. On a similar note, another stated that it *"Comes back to the point about what is achievable, affordable and where are we best going to spend our dollars to achieve these outcomes."* To help achieve freshwater goals, WRC was reminded to make use of the community as they are willing to '*get in and make things happen*.' Another CRG member asked that more detailed thought go into how progress can be made in various areas, and setting realistic goals and workable rules: "*at the moment when people work to improve the waterways, there seems to be a culture to prevent any drop of sediment going into the river... then a flood event puts in huge silt, we will never get to a point where a high flood event doesn't see lots of silt going into the river. To help the budget for pest tree removal, if the rules weren't quite so pedantic the dollar could go further"*.

It was questioned why there is a single, region-wide objective for Te Mana o te Wai but long-term visions differ depending on the FMU. While it was acknowledged that there may be some aspects of the West Coast that are unique (for example, the harbour areas, steep land, volcanic geology, springs, ki uta ki tai connection), the participant queried whether everything else would be consistent across the other areas. A suggested approach was focusing on the 'points of difference' for the West Coast. In particular, the following topics were emphasised for this FMU: streams having natural character, appropriate land use, high sediment issues, wetlands, and nature-based solutions to climate change resilience. With regards to the latter, climate change and disruptions were seen as the biggest threats to the outcomes we aim to achieve.

One group member noted [as it appears in Te Mana o te Wai wording] *"The language weaving through is tangata whenua - after the discussions are had, they may also talk about mana whenua, the whaanau, the hau kainga of that area. Will be good to have that discussion in the next iwi forum. Just getting that consistent language. Tangata whenua is quite a wide term. Not seeing that in Te Pae Tawhiti - how tangata whenua or mana whenua are named in this long-term vision."* A further thought was "*Should the language of tangata whenua come through to the vision section, or Te Tiriti?"*

For the specific issue of active participation and decision-making, one CRG member suggested "*Tangata whenua aspire to be actively involved in the decision-making processes related to water management. They seek meaningful engagement and co-governance arrangements that recognise their role as kaitiaki and ensure their cultural values are respected and incorporated into water management practices.*" To assist in achieving this, councils should develop co-governance arrangements with tangata whenua, such as joint management plans or advisory boards, to ensure their input and perspectives are incorporated into water management decision-making processes. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to provide training and support to tangata whenua representatives to build capacity for meaningful participation in water management processes. Hosting regular hui (meetings) with tangata whenua will help to ensure ongoing communication and collaboration.

One individual recommended as a general approach, *"Tangata whenua aspire for the protection and restoration of the mauri (life force) and water quality of rivers, lakes, and other water bodies. They aim to see water bodies in a state where they are safe for drinking, swimming, gathering kai (food), and carrying out customary practices."* To help achieve this outcome, the participant suggested that councils could work with tangata whenua to identify and prioritise sites for restoration, and develop restoration plans that incorporate indigenous plant species and traditional restoration techniques. It would also be beneficial to develop and implement water quality monitoring and improvement plans that incorporate tangata whenua perspectives and knowledge. Ensuring compliance with water quality regulations and working with industries and other stakeholders to reduce pollution and improve water quality, were also seen as important.

One aspect that may assist with achieving the described outcomes is a collaborative approach featuring knowledge sharing and capacity building. As suggested by one CRG member, *"Tangata whenua aspire for the recognition and validation of their traditional knowledge, practices, and approaches to water management. They seek opportunities to share their expertise and wisdom with others, fostering understanding and collaboration for the betterment of water management."* To accomplish this, the participant suggested that councils should support tangata whenua-led initiatives that incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and practices into water management and develop training and educational programs that recognise and validate traditional knowledge and approaches to water management. It would also be useful to develop partnerships with educational institutions to incorporate tangata whenua perspectives and knowledge into environmental and water management curricula.

In reference to Clause (a), one participant questioned *"what are needed to sustain the generations - need to add economic sustainability - to keep our communities vibrant."* The CRG members also had questions regarding the word 'restored', saying there needs to be an understanding of what the cut-off points for these are. When discussing future generations, one participant stated *"Tangata whenua aspire for the sustainable management of water resources that ensures the well-being and vitality of future generations. They seek to pass on a legacy of healthy water ecosystems, cultural traditions, and a strong connection to the land and water."* This individual also provided some ideas of how councils may achieve this, for example, engaging with youth and incorporating their perspectives into decision-making processes and encouraging intergenerational knowledge sharing via mentorship programmes and community events.

For Clause (b), participants once again questioned the use of the terms 'restored' and 'degraded' and emphasised the need to understand what the cut-off points for these were.

With regards to Clause (c), one respondent noted that many farmers are not aware of where wahi tapu sites are located, so they are unaware that they are treating them inappropriately. In response,

another CRG member noted that detailed mapping has been done with the Council – so a lack of farmer or landowner awareness indicates that work still needs to be done.

One respondent added *"Recognition of Whakapapa: Tangata whenua aspire for the acknowledgment and respect of the ancestral connections and whakapapa (genealogy) that link them to water bodies. They seek the recognition of their cultural and spiritual relationships with water."* Different methods were proposed to help councils fulfil this commitment. For instance, establishing signage and other educational material that identifies the spiritual and cultural significance of water bodies and the connections to whakapapa of the tangata whenua. It was also suggested that we ensure that local regulations regarding water management respect tangata whenua cultural and spiritual values, and that community education is needed to develop awareness and appreciation of these values and practices. In addition, local iwi and hapū can share their stories and knowledge about water bodies during community events or educational tours.

For the topic of sustainable water allocation, which is most closely linked to Clause (d), one participant suggested *"Tangata whenua aspire for sustainable allocation and use of water resources that ensures the health and well-being of both people and the environment. They emphasise the importance of balancing economic development with the need to preserve the integrity and functioning of ecosystems."* To help achieve this, councils can work with tangata whenua to prioritise water uses that align with cultural practices and values, prioritise the protection of cultural and ecological values, and develop water allocation plans that recognise tangata whenua rights and interests. It will also be beneficial more generally to implement water conservation measures to reduce demand and ensure sustainable use of water resources.

In reference to Clause (e), a range of contrasting views were expressed on the topic of safe swimming. One individual questioned whether WRC can make the timeframe for this objective sooner as 80 years *"feels like a long way away."* One view was that safe swimming should be achieved in the timeframe of ten years, but another participant felt that – while they would love to see it happen – this was not reasonable. There was comment that historically, some parts of rivers were "*never safe to swim*." While there may be safe sites for swimming, the goal for safe swimming everywhere would be too high of an aspiration.

With regards to Clause (f), 'Public access to waterways is improved', one CRG member questioned if this clause should be included in the objective or if it sits outside of freshwater management.

For Clause (g), it was stated that "*2050 also feels like a long way away*" and the participant hoped that we might be able to look after the ecosystem sooner. One CRG member noted that trout are protected under the NPS even though they are "*eating a lot of our indigenous biodiversity*". For the concept of ecological health, another CRG member expressed the following sentiment: "*Tangata whenua aspire for the holistic health of water ecosystems, including the preservation and restoration of indigenous flora and fauna…They emphasise the interconnection between the health of waterways and the health and well-being of their communities.*" To help achieve this, it was suggested that councils should work with tangata whenua to prioritise areas for ecological restoration and protection and develop strategies that include indigenous flora and fauna. Another recommendation was to encourage public participation in restoration and protection efforts via community events and volunteer programmes.

In reference to Clause (h), it was noted that 2034 was not far away and a CRG member questioned if WRC has calculated a budget for such a task. Another participant asked if the term 'pest willows' covers other trees such as the Japanese walnut. It was also noted that farmers fencing off their streams may create an issue with weeds.

3.2.3 Setting attribute target states

West Coast CRG members were presented with examples of potential principles that could be used to set attribute target states (see Appendix N). When asked to provide their feedback on setting targets, a variety of comments were provided.

There was agreement with the overall principle of maintaining or improving each attribute. Agreement was also expressed for the first long-term target principle, but it was felt that the second could be more ambitious in its timeframe. With regards to the short-term target principles, while there was a level of agreement, CRG members also questioned whether these should depend on the baseline. One individual did question whether these principles are realistic and asked if there are real-life examples to demonstrate whether this rate of change is possible. Another participant suggested the approach of identifying 'quick wins' and 'long-games', starting on both with tailored approaches for each, and celebrating success along the way. It was queried if the target setting process/ principles take climate change into account and the effects it has on life in the water.

It was stated that it will not be possible to see changes in some attributes for 10 or more years; hence, long-term data sets are necessary to detect some trends. On the topic of change, another individual noted that achieving results may also depend on the size of the catchment, and type of water body (e.g. particular lakes). It was felt that farmers are '*really good*' at altering their behaviour if they can physically see the benefits of implementing such changes. It was noted there are problem examples of sites where lots of work was done but no improvement was measured – CRG members were wondering what the reasons might be for that. On the topic of monitoring, it was questioned if the scientists at WRC were working on all the attributes identified in the NPS – and if the CRG members are going to get to review all those attribute measures and provide feedback. WRC scientists were asked how confident they are in the current monitoring system in place when using them to set attributes.

One CRG member emphasised that at some stage of the CRG process (and the Freshwater Policy Review in general) the sharing of many more real-world examples is needed. In a similar vein, one participant requested that WRC share real-life examples of improvements, in order to help people understand what needs to be done to achieve these changes. It was stated that community members have a lack of knowledge regarding the current monitoring of freshwater and were unsure whether WRC knows enough, has a baseline, or if enough monitoring was being done. The overall question was "do we know enough about our state?" One response was *"Whaingaroa harbour - a lot of work done there - is it really being monitored and measured from a real perspective e.g. fish and eelgrass improvements".*

It was stated that with heavy rainfall events, there will be more run-off of contaminants (including phosphorus and E. coli). These heavy rainfalls mean that 'swimmable' water may be achieved outside of such weather events, but not 365 days of the year.

In relation to planting riparian buffer zones, there was a discussion regarding their capacity to stop/ reduce the run-off from farms. It was believed that while these buffers can help, they cannot catch everything.

3.2.4 State of environment and accelerating positive change

West Coast CRG members were asked what the policy review should focus on to help accelerate change and provided the following feedback. The work iwi and communities are already doing in 'this space' (freshwater management) should be acknowledged and help should be provided so that they are enabled to be part of the change for good and can support farmers. It was suggested that WRC could assist communities in fulfilling their roles as guardians of the water by making it easier to find

and understand monitoring data. Ongoing engagement was requested with King Country farming communities.

Some CRG members expressed disagreement with putting in place additional measures now, and instead suggested that emphasis should be placed on implementing the new government freshwater directions initially. It was suggested that we should concentrate on the new rules in the Essential Freshwater Package first and then see what else is needed.

4 Te Wae Whakahaere Waimāori a Waikato-Waipā | Waikato-Waipā FMU

A total of fourteen people were included in the Waikato-Waipa CRG. The range of interests include backgrounds and experience in sheep and beef farming, dairy farming, Upper Waikato Catchment Committee membership (WRC), Whirinaki catchment group, Mangatangi Maramarua catchment group, Hakarimata Restoration Trust, environmental contractor, education, Federated Farmers, resource consent planner, environmental planner, urban planner, previous role at Department of Conservation, geologist/scientist, and recreational fishing, hunting and other activities, rural/urban mix.

4.1 Workshop one

Of the fourteen people selected, a total of eight attended the first Waikato-Waipa CRG workshop, with three other members sending their apologies. The first workshop focused on: 1) members introducing themselves and their relevant backgrounds and experience; 2) providing background information regarding the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the purpose/role of the CRGs; and 3) discussing the concept of Te Mana o te Wai.

After sharing their backgrounds and experience, the question was asked of the group 'Who's missing from the voices here?' CRG members noted an absence of Treaty partners and representation of future generations.

4.1.1 Te Mana o te Wai

After reading about the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and the feedback that was provided by the Waikato-Waipā community in the first round of engagement, the group was asked to provide their thoughts and reflections on the topic.

Members stated that the concept of Te Mana o te Wai resonates with them and is seen as something that reverses previous freshwater management approaches by putting the health and wellbeing of the water first. There was recognition that there is/ may be tension regarding how changes to regulations/ policies will influence people's economic base. It was expressed that many people want the same thing – healthy water – but differences of opinion arise when discussing how to reach this goal. Members felt that people want to do the 'right thing' but may not understand how to get there – education will be an important part of helping others understand. Connecting to the water was also seen as critical.

While CRG members acknowledged that the process of improving water quality would not be easy, they stated that it was important to recognise that some improvements have already been made. A holistic perspective on freshwater systems was encouraged: "*Water flowing from mountains to sea – activities alongside are part of the whole system, need to be taken on the journey*".

CRG members believed that human waste is part of what makes water un-swimmable. In a similar vein, urban development was also seen as a contributing factor, with particular note of the rate of infill development in North Waikato, servicing communities who commute to work in Auckland.

4.2 Workshop Two

A total of nine people attended the second Waikato-Waipa CRG workshop, with four other members sending their apologies. The second workshop focused on two main topics: 1) Visions and Values, and 2) sharing what WRC currently knows from monitoring and science.

4.2.1 Visions and values

CRG members were provided with summaries from previous engagement and literature reviews outlining visions and values for freshwater (management) within the Waikato-Waipā FMU. There were also slides referencing 'Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato – The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River', aspirations previously expressed by communities (prior to the FPR), and the compulsory and other values identified in the NPS-FM 2020.

In reference to 'Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato', CRG members noted that this approach was a paradigm shift in worldview. Agreement was expressed with this 'Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River', as well several of the aspirations that were noted previously by community members during the first round of engagement. In particular, those concerning business and communities, natural hazards, mahinga kai, cultural connectedness, water quality, and biodiversity and ecosystems. It was believed that there will be broad support for improving water quality.

The interaction between humans and water was seen as having an impact on freshwater, and that both people and water need to be visible "*alongside each other*". Specifically, it was stated that humans are the cause of degradation and that in our absence, nature would be able to repair itself.

CRG members suggested that goals needed to be sustainable, realistic, and achievable. Similarly, targets should be realistic, affordable, and stable. There was comment that realistic targets are necessary so that *"prior process doesn't become worthless."* Standards, it was said, should be measurable.

There were questions regarding the timeframes around aspirations and how we might accomplish these goals in a way that suits everyone. It was pointed out that the changes needed to achieve these goals would not be equally distributed amongst the population and some will need to change more than others.

The value of water was a focal point of discussion. It was suggested that if people's access to and/ or use of water was shifted, it would alter the intrinsic value they assign to water. CRG members emphasised that while the urban population continues to grow, the people within these environments have a weaker/ lesser connection to water. Some members stated that without a water meter or relying on a rainwater tank, those in an urban setting do not see water as an issue.

4.2.2 State of freshwater in Waikato-Waipā

To cover the topic of monitoring and science, WRC scientists briefly presented relevant content. This included: current state and bottom-lines for the Waikato-Waipā FMU, pressures and current responses, and trends regarding 1) groundwater, 2) rivers, 3) water quantity/allocation, and 4) science for lakes.

For the topic of groundwater nitrate, CRG members noted that policy development should include groundwater attributes (in particular, nitrate attributes). It was questioned whether we are measuring all the ways water is impacted and if we are missing (not collecting) important data. Similarly, another participant said that it sounds as though there are some bottom-lines missing for different minerals and chemicals. One individual suggested that, other than small areas, there was no shortage of

groundwater (within the Waikato-Waipā FMU). It was noted that groundwater nitrate is high where high intensity farming occurs – and intensity is required to feed more people. CRG members commented that it is likely that higher intensity farming will be required in the future for this reason.

In response to the information provided regarding groundwater nitrate, CRG members proposed some questions. For example, they were curious if cadmium levels in the groundwater were an issue and they also wondered if groundwater will deteriorate further over the years. It was asked if there is a groundwater attribute or quality that can be measured to demonstrate the effect of urban populations. The condition of peat ecosystems was noted as a concern, and one individual wanted to know if lowering groundwater is causing the consolidation of pumiceous sediment or oxidation of peat.

With regards to the topic of water allocation, CRG members commented that water resource and consents must reflect future proofing, not pressure responses. It was asked if WRC gives preference for allocating to sustainable water users and one participant wanted to know if urban councils are given access to more water for their growing populations, even though Q5 [low flow] values are decreasing. One CRG member queried what happens when overallocation results in one person taking what they are allowed and others miss out – for example, is there a percentage reduction in water takes for all individuals?

On the poster discussing water quality trends, members left both statements and questions. One individual believed that systematic and genuine catchment planting will help to diffuse pollution. Another commented that we focus on the water quality effects of farmland ("*It's easy to say 1ha less farmland will likely reduce water quality effects by 'x'*") but we ignore the effects that houses (urbanisation) have on water quality. Furthermore, we should acknowledge that greater needs for housing correlate to greater needs for farmland (for food). The CRG members noted that while it may be easy to say we have to reduce nitrogen inputs to solve water quality, there needs to be a discussion about the effect that this may have on the yield required to feed people and the economic effects. In terms of questions, one participant asked about the status of zinc within our water – especially in ephemeral streams. Another wanted to know how efficient current riparian protection is in regard to nutrient interception. One person explained that they were unaware that waterways need shade to keep temperatures under control, so they were curious how we can maintain the shade. For the topic of (total) nitrogen, one participant asked if nitrogen levels have improved in the traditional dairy areas. In reference to trends within Waikato-Waipa lakes, one CRG member emphasised the importance of saving our peat lakes. Another individual pointed out that a key factor in lake management that is within our control is the reduction of [koi] carp loading. There was comment that directly affected landowners around lakes will suffer (large) economic and wellbeing stresses via new regulations, for water quality change that will benefit the whole region. One person questioned whether the reduction in phosphorus is due to changes in fertiliser composition or deliberate decisions around using phosphorus. Another participant recognised the usefulness of wetlands but asked if this depends on where they are in relation to the lake/ river they are filtering.

After reviewing the material, CRG members were given the opportunity to identify any 'red flags' from the science material that was presented to them. In reference to groundwater, it was observed that there is a lack of data and measurement. There were concerns that if we only focus on what we can measure, other things will drop off the radar. It was questioned what was meant by riparian planting and how effective it is. Concern was expressed for the condition of the Lower Waikato lake systems. CRG members noted that fish passage was fraught and questioned how widespread barriers such as culverts are. It was, however, acknowledged that improving fish passage can also enable pest fish expansion. Another individual stated that low flow conditions in waterways can result in a "water

quality barrier" to fish passage due to the occurrence of anoxic (low oxygen) areas that are unsuitable for fish.

4.3 Workshop three

For the third workshop, eight of the Waikato-Waipā CRG members attended. The following topics were discussed during the session: 1) draft objective for Te Mana o te Wai; 2) draft objectives for Long-term Visions; 3) principles for setting target attribute states; and 4) what can be done to accelerate positive change.

4.3.1 Te Mana o te Wai – Draft objective

After being presented with the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective (see Appendix E), the feedback provided by the Waikato-Waipā CRG members was a mixture of general comments about the overall objective and thoughts on specific clauses.

In terms of general feedback, there was comment that erosion is a normal ecological process and, regardless of vegetation, we cannot stop it. There was also comment that if there is high run-off, there will be high phosphorus.

In reference to Clause (1), it was stated that we need to look at individual sub-catchments to effect change, for example looking at the different FMUs for this catchment (Lower, Middle, and Upper Waikato). For (sub)Clause (1.2), it was noted that some individuals are not personally inextricably connected to freshwater (for example if they live at some distance from any surface waterway). When discussing (sub)Clause (1.3), CRG members commented that not only human activities have an impact, but there are also environmental influences. It was felt that the effects of climate change should be acknowledged.

With regards to Clause (2), some CRG members asked that all people within Aotearoa be enabled to participate.

For Clause (3), it was questioned how we can determine what is available for human use. Furthermore, there was comment that the efficiency of freshwater use in urban areas needs to be managed. When discussing Clause (3) and the topic of 'sufficient water', CRG members indicated that for 11/12 months of the year, there is sufficient water. Only when there are low flows, does quantity become a concern; they also noted that at these times there are trigger levels when irrigation takes must be reduced. Another person said it was "*quite telling*" that this clause did not prioritise human-oriented values such as swimmable/ drinkable freshwater; they agreed with this, seeing the ecosystem as the "*fundamental baseline*".

CRG members pointed out that clauses (2), (3), and (4) did not mention commercial uses; and that all influences should be acknowledged for things to be fair. The example given was hydro-generation affecting bank erosion with water levels going up and down.

4.3.2 Long-term visions – Draft objectives

Four different long-term visions were provided, one for each FMU within the wider catchment – Waipā, and Lower, Middle, and Upper Waikato.

There was some feedback questioning the value of having multiple separate visions ("*All variations on a theme – be more consistent & efficient…Better off looking across the region and expand that if need be*").

4.3.2.1 Waipā

After being presented with the draft long-term vision for Waipā (see Appendix H), CRG members provided a mixture of general feedback and thoughts on specific clauses. CRG members felt that the underlying issue was that people do not value water, and therefore they do not use it efficiently. The comment was made that where cultural references/ terminology is used, definitions should be provided so that it can be understood by all, and there was a call for the objective to be inclusive of all ethnic groups.

With regards to Clause (b) and returning water quality to what it was '100 years ago', there was comment that the Waipā river water has always been of lower quality.

In reference to Clause (c), it was suggested that the wording include scientific knowledge to complement Mātauranga.

When reviewing Clause (e), it was queried whether certain cultural practices are relevant today – for example, birthing practices related to the river. Questions were also raised as to what qualified as 'ancestral land' and 'inappropriate use' (of such places).

For Clause (f), CRG members asked whether the term 'collectively' meant that everyone would help economically. They stressed the importance of consistency.

When discussing the concept of new wetlands, as outlined in Clause (g), CRG members queried where and how these would be established. Furthermore, it was questioned whether they actually improve water quality or if they are mostly used for stormwater detention in urban areas.

4.3.2.2 Upper Waikato

For the draft long-term vision for the Upper Waikato (see Appendix I), CRG members provided the following feedback related to some of the specific clauses.

When discussing the topic of drinking water, as raised in Clause (b), it was questioned as to what was meant by 'abundant' and/or 'sufficient' drinkable water. A comment was made that if water is seen as 'abundant', it could be wasted. An additional comment was that, currently, all water must be treated in order to be classified as drinkable and that there is a cost to this treatment. The CRG members expressed that they were not expecting to drink straight from the river or groundwater.

In reference to Clause (d), there was comment that all people within New Zealand should be included as guardians.

For Clause (e), it was noted that vegetable growers use a substantial amount of fertiliser and more will be moving into the Waikato Region.

When discussing Clause (h), it was stated that water being "unconstrained" was not practical for the Upper Waikato (due to hydrodams) and that ponds for stormwater detention can play an important role in both rural and urban settings. Furthermore, constraints such as dams can prevent pest fish like koi (carp) from going further upstream (relates to Clause (g) also).

Regarding Clause (i), it was noted that expansions were needed for riparian areas since narrow ones will not function fully; and perhaps we should specifically focus on planting native trees/plants.

4.3.2.3 Middle Waikato

The draft long-term vision from the Middle Waikato FMU (see Appendix J) received the following feedback from CRG members.

It was noted that Clauses (c), (d), and (e) do not make references to the built environment and/ or urban areas – but that this should be an emphasis for this FMU, given it is the most urbanised part of the catchment.

For urban land, CRG members would like to see: the capture of rainwater/ stormwater; residents being charged for water use, and urban areas being built in a way that enhances water quality and is sustainable for freshwater.

4.3.2.4 Lower Waikato

After being given the draft long-term vision for the Lower Waikato FMU (see Appendix K), the CRG members gave their thoughts on the objective.

When discussing the idea of restoring water to how it was '100 years ago', as noted in Clause (b), CRG members emphasised that not only was this unachievable now but that the era the objective was referring to (1923) was not a great time for water condition. It was noted that the last 20 years have seen improvements to freshwater.

In reference to Clause (c), CRG members agreed with earlier statements. That is, whether certain cultural practices are relevant today and what qualified as 'ancestral land' and 'inappropriate use' (of such places).

They also noted that feedback on previous vision clauses [presumably regarding consistency across groups] were also relevant to the collective responsibility Clause (d) of this vision.

It was suggested that in order to accomplish Clauses (e) and (f), it would require the removal of koi carp (which were labelled as the 'biggest ecological disaster of North Waikato').

For Clause (f), CRG members felt that less emphasis should be placed on increasing the size of wetlands and more effort should be put into looking after the ones we currently have. In particular, the significance of Whangamarino and the multiple factors impacting on it were noted: "*Whangamarino is largest wetland. Waikare canal and weir affect it. Incremental effects add up and tip the scale."* It was noted that despite the effects of the forestry industry being featured in the news and debris from the industry being left in waterways, the clauses did not emphasise their impact. The alternative effects of more intensive land use were also acknowledged, and a nuanced approach to land use change recommended: "*Flipside of that is conversion of forest -> dairy in upper catchment releases N, needs big water takes – challenges of all land uses – not just planting pine trees to 'solve problems'."* With regards to Clause (g), if was queried if the ten-year timeframe was applicable only to the last phrase ('decline in water quality'). The CRG members advised that being 'pest free' in ten years is not achievable.

When reviewing Clause (h), it was felt that this outcome was not realistic as consent timeframes would prevent this from being achieved. It was suggested that it might be better to group the Clauses according to themes. For example, environmental, human use, cultural considerations. CRG members felt that differences in approaches/ policy should be based upon land uses (urban/ rural/ industrial), rather than FMU.

4.3.3 Principles for setting target attribute states

Waikato-Waipā CRG members were provided with some examples of potential principles for setting target attribute states for their local freshwater (see Appendix N).

Some support was expressed for the colour-coding of the banks and scales, so they were easy to read and understand.

CRG members wanted to know what these targets actually meant for the people in or around these areas. They cautioned against using a one-size fits all approach. It was recommended that a more focused approach was used; specifically, starting with the more critical areas first and the importance of addressing the 'major' polluters/ problems. An example given was koi carp in the Lower Waikato. The need to monitor streams was also stressed - localised monitoring was seen as necessary before finalising the approach. There was comment that we need to understand that there is not a direct relationship between certain variables and the water (pressure -> response). For example, the observation was made that even though the number of cows has halved around Waikare, the water quality is still deteriorating.

In terms of the principles for setting targets, CRG members said science modelling should inform whether a target (for example, band change) is achievable. It was recommended that best practice management activities should be expected of everyone, no matter what 'band' [state] the local freshwater is currently in. There was a question as to why the pace of change was 'frontloaded' with a 20% change in 10 years but an overall timeframe of 80 years. Participants noted that environmental legacies will limit band changes. For instance, one individual noted that the pre-existing load of sediment (in the water) may limit what improvements can be made. It was recommended that the focus be on 10-year goals rather than 80-year ones in order to maintain focus and motivation. The uncertain effect of sea-level rise in an 80-year timeframe was also noted, and that this might mean some lakes may cease to be freshwater environments. CRG members wanted to know what will happen if targets are not reached and what will be the consequences for councils. It was also asked if central government would adjust the NPS-FM.

One participant questioned whether the term 'lake targets' encompasses all wetland types (for example, peatland and groundwater).

4.3.4 State of environment and accelerating positive change

CRG members were provided with a brief summary of the state of freshwater within Waikato-Waipā and then asked what the Freshwater Policy Review should focus on to accelerate positive change.

A recurring comment was the importance of using scientific data; in particular, using science to set targets. Furthermore, best practice should be applied, regardless of response/ lag time. The point was made that measurable trends for some attributes may take decades. It was recommended to avoid expenditure on the 'wrong solutions.' There was recognition that while only a small percentage of lakes are monitored, the results from these will inform region-wide policy/ regulation that is applied to all wetland types.

The point was made that as a society, we need to think about the drivers for land use – why are we using it the way we do? If our motivators/ drivers do not change, will the pressures on the environment be able to be mitigated or improved sustainably? The renewal of water-related consents was seen as an opportunity to revisit use and achieve greater sustainability: "*Focus on better use of land and water resources – we cannot do the same and expect different results*."

The CRG members emphasised the importance of working together. Speeding up awareness in urban settings/ areas could be done by measuring/ monitoring water use and charging based on use.

5 Te Wae Whakahaere Waimāori a Hauraki | Hauraki FMU

A total of eleven people were included in the Hauraki CRG. The range of interests include backgrounds and experience in dairy farming, organic farming, East Waikato Stakeholders committee, Waihou-Piako Catchment Forum, Enviroschools, Friends of Waiharakeke stream, Wharekawa River Catchment Group, Dairy NZ, Federated Farmers, recreational fishing and other activities, environmental agricultural science, nutrient management, horticulture.

5.1 Workshop one

Of the eleven people selected, a total of nine attended the first Hauraki CRG workshop. The first workshop focused on: 1) members introducing themselves and their relevant backgrounds and experience; 2) providing background information regarding the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the purpose/role of the CRGs; and 3) discussing the concept of Te Mana o te Wai.

After introducing themselves, the group was asked who was missing from this forum. It was acknowledged that this FMU's CRG was *"quite strong in farmers."* Some felt this was appropriate, given that farmers understand the significance of water and are likely to be (strongly) affected by freshwater policy change. Some CRG members stressed that urban communities do not possess the same interest and are not subject to compliance the same way farmers are. Another individual said that it didn't 'feel right' that there was a lack of Māori voices within the group. Similarly, those who represent 'Fish & Game' were also absent. There was recognition that the majority of the participants were male and of NZ European/Pakeha descent.

5.1.1 Te Mana o te Wai

After reading about the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and the feedback that was shared by the Hauraki community in the first round of engagement, the group was asked to provide their thoughts and reflections on the topic.

CRG members acknowledged the significant role water played in their everyday lives, especially those who live on the land. It was stated that Te Mana o te Wai considers water to be a living being and the approach 'don't do unto others as you don't want others to do to you' should be taken. Members explained that there will be a variety of solutions, but which one is applied will vary depending upon the situation. One example of an issue was the presence of koi carp ('rabbits of the river'). It was mentioned that there should be more local responsibility within the context of the wider FMU. For Hauraki in particular, it was noted that Central Hauraki has been modified a lot. Two examples were provided of issues within this specific FMU. Firstly, the Gulf is receiving sediment and getting shallower. Secondly, water allocation in Waihou has resulted in takes, which then lead to reduced flow, and in the end, sediment is deposited closer in-shore.

There was recognition that while deterioration of the Waihou river has taken place in the past, there have been some recent improvements. Some commented that, although it was not an excuse to do nothing, it should be taken into consideration that variability is a part of the 'natural state' and that extreme weather events can have significant effects. In fact, one person commented that *"everything has an effect."* As an example, it was noted that the goal of drainage is get water to flow away, but slowing down the water provides it with the opportunity to settle and filter.

It was emphasised that limits, goals, and rules should be based in science and should be realistic to reach – if this is done, we will get our desired outcomes. CRG members noted that timelines will vary as some effects will happen slowly and we should be realistic in our expectations. Concerns were expressed regarding who gets to define what 'good' looks like – especially if water is prioritised above people's health (this needs a 'sensible' approach). In terms of setting regulatory direction, participants asked if we are doing things now that our grandchildren would find appalling and whether they will be proud of us.

5.2 Workshop two

A total of seven people attended the second Hauraki CRG workshop, with four other members sending their apologies. The second workshop focused on two main topics: 1) Visions and Values, and 2) sharing what WRC currently knows from monitoring and science.

5.2.1 Visions and values

CRG members were provided with summaries from previous engagement and literature reviews outlining visions and values for freshwater (management) within the Hauraki FMU.

CRG members believe that the visions and values identified from the first round of engagement were comprehensive and would receive wide agreement – but they cautioned that these aspirations should not be taken to an extreme. There were concerns regarding what will happen with these concepts and who will discern the next steps after these conversations. CRG members commented that the perspectives and aspirations (and authority) of Mana Whenua need to be acknowledged and elevated. The range and hierarchy of visions and value documents relating to iwi was also noted e.g., Deed of Settlement vs Iwi Management Plan.

It was felt that WRC needs to incorporate both short-term action and long-term aspirations, and one participant stressed the importance of moving with urgency to action. Some CRG members stressed that the focus should be on restoration and the importance of ecosystem integrity over human utility. Participants noted that while people can be viewed as part of the ecosystem, we need to not be a dominant part that destroys it. It was also viewed that some areas may need to revert back to 'natural' ecosystems.

It was stated that how we go out to the public with this new policy will determine how they respond, but it will be easier to bring people along with us on this journey if we can include values that everyone agrees with. One individual suggested that, rather than encouraging a connection to the river and then enhancing the waterbody, WRC should enhance the river, and this will then encourage reconnection. It was believed that riparian management should enhance the ability to connect to the river as well as protect it (as sometimes dense planting can impede access). Another participant recommended that we prioritise sites of importance to the community, for example, the Blue Springs.

5.2.2 State of freshwater in Hauraki

To cover the topic of monitoring and science, WRC scientists briefly presented relevant content. This included: current state and bottom-lines for the Hauraki FMU, pressures and current responses, and trends regarding 1) groundwater, 2) rivers, 3) water quantity/ allocation, and 4) coastal water.

Regarding the topic of sediment and nutrients, CRG members suggested that one strategy to address these issues is via wetland restoration. WRC was asked about the distribution of sediment sources as well as what can be done to the nutrients/ sediments already in the harbour.

When discussing the topic of water allocation, there was comment that change needs to come sooner rather than later, and that work is needed on water storage for droughts. The connection between groundwater takes and surface water allocations was also noted. For this issue, CRG members enquired about the protocols for setting the percentage of allocation from low flow, and what climate change means for water storage options.

For the issue of streams, it was queried what the MCI scores for Hauraki might have been approximately 500 years ago. Participants also questioned the state of bacteria at Waihou/Piako (closer to the Firth). The impact of agrichemicals was raised, and how significant the levels of these contaminants are within Hauraki rivers.

On a poster that described different sources of nitrogen, one CRG member commented that this issue could be helped via the restoration of wetlands and recommended we move to alternative fertilisers such as seaweed. Another questioned what the impact of nitrogen application on farms was and how material the nitrogen levels are in Hauraki rivers.

With regards to the topic of groundwater nitrate, queries were raised as to the distribution of sources of nitrogen in groundwater, and whether there is trend data for the groundwater nitrate monitoring sites. CRG members pointed out that there have been land use changes (for example, horticulture vs pastoral farming) and that one way to limit the load on soil was by educating the community. For this issue, it was asked how we understand underwater catchments (with an interest expressed in seeing groundwater maps/ information on aquifers). Another question was around what level of nitrate satisfies Te Mana o te Wai. One individual questioned if WRC was aware of new research regarding safe nitrogen levels and health risks.

In reference to water quality trends, CRG members would like to see an analysis of land use change within the catchment; as well as an analysis of sites with no changes versus those with the largest changes (and a discussion about the causes/ contributions). They also had questions about the impact and status of chemical contamination.

After reviewing the material, CRG members were given the opportunity to identify any 'red flags' from the science material that was presented to them. There was comment that there needs to be a lot of modelling and confidence in the information used when forming the policy – especially if people are expected to follow rules/ regulations. Members emphasised the importance of maintaining environmental data sets over the long-term and marrying different data sets together to help establish why things are happening. Another participant recommended that WRC scientists need to make their explanations simple for the community to understand and they should focus on the fundamental causes and tell a story with their data.

Hauraki CRG members felt that it would be beneficial to know what alternatives could be used to address trends in nitrogen levels (for example, alternative fertilisers).

It was noted that there was an absence of mātauranga Māori, which should be incorporated to help provide the bigger story of how the ecosystem relates to itself.

5.3 Workshop three

For the third workshop, eight of the Hauraki CRG members attended. The following topics were discussed during the session: 1) draft objective for Te Mana o te Wai; 2) draft objective for the Long-term Vision; 3) principles for setting target attribute states; and 4) what can be done to accelerate positive change.

5.3.1 Te Mana o te Wai – Draft objective

After being presented with the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective (see Appendix E), the feedback provided by the Hauraki CRG members was a mixture of general comments about the overall objective and thoughts on specific clauses.

In terms of general feedback, several participants had concerns with how the words of the objective will be interpreted and the consequences if they are interpreted in a certain way. There was a sense that as worded, the objective could rule out current productive land use and that, compared to cultivating, pastoral farming builds topsoil, and therefore has a beneficial effect.

In reference to Clause (1), there was comment that the clause should not only apply to freshwater resources but also freshwater ecosystems. In that same clause, the expression 'restored and protected' is used and while the CRG members said it "*sounds great*", they wanted clarification as to what state we hope to restore to. When discussing water quantity, as in Clause (1.1), one participant suggested this could be helped via the installation and use of water tanks. For Clause (1.3), it was noted that human activities are not the only factor determining the health and well-being of freshwater, and that other factors also have an influence. For example, what is in the soil will have an influence when freshwater makes contact with the soil. Similarly, the run-off from tar-sealed roads influences water quality.

Regarding Clause (2), it was suggested that this be reworded so that tangata whenua are decision-makers, not just participants. Another suggestion was to add community beside tangata whenua.

In response to Clause (3), it was stated that the words used could be interpreted in ways that CRG members are *"not comfortable with."*

It was noted that Clause (4) was currently the only one with the word 'community' in it, and the view was given that reflecting human society needed to be a bigger part of the wording.

5.3.2 Long-term Vision – Draft objective

After reviewing the draft long-term vision for Hauraki (see Appendix L) CRG members provided a mixture of general feedback and thoughts on specific clauses.

In terms of general feedback, it was noted that this draft vision is missing a crucial element – flood protection, which allows people to live within the FMU. The CRG members believed that water quality can be restored while people continue to live and farm in the area (things can co-exist), depending on how they are managed. WRC was urged to consider both collective and private needs. With regards to the general approach to change, the advice was to spend the first 10 years of the project changing the direction of travel (i.e., shifting from water degradation to restoration/ improvement) and, after that, gradual improvement will start to be seen. Overall, CRG members felt that a lot of work needed to be done revising the draft objective, or the credibility of the project could be undermined with the community.

In reference to Clause (a), there was concern that the use of terms such as 'well-being' and 'mauri' goes beyond the realm of science and objective information. The CRG members requested definitions for words such as these. Another individual stated that the phrase 'present and future generations' *"implies only a people perspective."*

Regarding Clause (b), it was suggested that the 'use and' part of this objective be deleted, leaving the focus on land management instead "*as it could be interpreted as a particular land use is not sustainable*."

For Clause (d), the CRG members recommended that the term 'suitable' be used instead of 'clean.' After reviewing Clause (e), it was noted that the objective could be interpreted in a variety of ways. For example, it could be used to encourage the removal of flood protection, but could just as well encourage it being built up.

Similarly, Clause (f) was seen as 'good' but had the potential to be perceived in different ways. It was also noted that, in reference to Clauses (f) and (g), some waterways are closed by council.

The notion of restoring freshwater to 'pre-colonisation' state, as discussed in Clause (g), was seen by several group members as inappropriate or unachievable. It was questioned how we would know what water quality was like back then and suggested that this wording risked creating a 'divide'. CRG members stressed that current, post-colonial land uses (e.g., farming, towns, etc.) would need to be removed in order to reach this state. Furthermore, they stated that the Hauraki plains are a highly modified environment and money would need to be spent to transform it back to its pre-colonisation state – it could not simply be left to revert.

When reviewing Clause (h), CRG members stated that clarification was needed, and they questioned how the term 'wetland' was defined. It was suggested that WRC should be practical in defining these areas.

In reference to Clause (i), it was queried what 'full public access' means and to what extent this would apply (e.g. navigable waters, drains?). Group members commented that WRC should recognise that people may have an expectation regarding their property rights at the time of purchase. It was stressed that full access could create "*a whole lot of issues*", including safety concerns for the public coming into contact with stock such as bulls. The recommendation was made to remove the second part of the clause (i.e., everything after 'and') and just focus on improving public access.

With regards to Clause (j), it was stated that the term 'waterways' is broad and requires further clarification. There was recognition that riparian planting can conflict with flood protection schemes and that riparian forest is inappropriate in some places. In addition, members noted that the planting emphasised [Clause (j)] may actually conflict with improving public access to freshwater if dense vegetation impedes passage [Clause (i)].

5.3.3 Setting attribute target states

Hauraki CRG members were provided with some examples of potential principles for setting target attribute states for their local freshwater (see Appendix N).

There was agreement with the overall notion of 'maintain and improve.' It was recommended to start with areas that lend themselves to easily achieving changes ("*pick the easy wins first*"). Where it is easy to make improvements, "*we should do more faster*." In contrast, where changes are extremely hard, the expected speed of change should be adjusted. A key aspect is learning what changes **can** be made so that we can start improving in those areas. Along the way, an important part of the process is celebrating positive changes and improvements.

Monitoring was seen as a crucial part of establishing timeframes. It was suggested that short-term targets should be focused on the direction of travel rather than meeting specific numerical requirements. It should be acknowledged that there will be lag times in some areas – for example, riparian planting and nitrogen loads – and timeframes for targets should take these into account. Furthermore, since there may be lag times, short-term targets should include activity-based targets, not only water quality targets. While one participant saw 80 years as a reasonable timeframe for long-

term goals, another individual commented that the 'up a band over 80 years' approach should depend on what this means for communities and ecosystems. Timelines for targets need to factor in the capacity of strategies to achieve gains. Tributary-specific targets were also recommended.

CRG members commented that it is important to know what demands on communities are, and then to consider how to spread costs and the initial impacts that communities will experience. In addition, it is necessary to educate the community. For example, putting terminology into the community so they better understand measurements of water quality, and explaining what the different numbers mean in terms of values (scales that describe good and bad). We need to create ownership as a community and identify community outcomes.

CRG members questioned whether managed [artificial] waterbodies are included in the targets. It was also asked if policy is driving targets or is our ability to meet targets driving policy.

5.3.4 State of environment and accelerating positive change

CRG members were provided with a brief summary of the state of freshwater within Hauraki and then asked what the Freshwater Policy Review should focus on to accelerate positive change.

Group members recommended considering methods that will simultaneously incentivise farmers while also ensuring they will take action. Possibilities included making farm management plans compulsory along with funding land-use change for farmers. There was recognition that in the longer term, land use would have to be managed where needed.

Group members had suggestions about managing regulatory settings. In some places it might be appropriate to make farming a controlled activity, and in other places a discretionary activity. Making it easy for farmers to go through the consenting process was viewed as important. Conditions on permitted activities could also be broadly applied to make freshwater improvements, while minimising consent costs.

CRG members felt that short-term goals can be reached via good management practices and minimum standards on permitted activities – if land users could not comply with these, they would need to get resource consent. Long-term goals could also be progressed via non-regulatory means, for example, riparian planting. Science, new technologies and tools should be used to help reach long-term goals. A timeframe of 20 years was seen as too long to wait to change for certain aspects – namely, consents to discharge (they need to be reviewed more often).

CRG members recommended WRC focus on where changes can be made to get the biggest initial impact for viable, economic community change. There should be recognition that achieving changes will require the use of logistics, for example, town planning. The scale of both incentives and penalties need to be taken into consideration, as does the ability of councils to monitor data sites and provide feedback on these. Finally, group members emphasised the importance of education.

6 Te Wae Whakahaere Waimāori a te Tara o te ika a Māui | Coromandel FMU

The Coromandel CRG included five individuals. The range of interests include backgrounds and experience in dairy farming, harbour care, recreational fishing, hunting and other activities, environmental scientist, Mana Manu Trust (pest management), ecologist, environment chamber representative.

6.1 Workshop one

Of the five people selected, only two attended the first Coromandel CRG workshop. The first workshop focused on: 1) members introducing themselves and their relevant backgrounds and experience; 2) providing background information regarding the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the purpose/role of the CRGs; 3) discussing the concept of Te Mana o te Wai; 4) discussing visions and values; and 5) briefly reviewing the current state of freshwater within the FMU.

6.1.1 Te Mana o te Wai

After reading about the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and the feedback that was shared by the Coromandel community in the first round of engagement, the group was asked to provide their thoughts and reflections on the topic. Members expressed 'relief' in regard to Te Mana o te Wai; that we have been 'trading off' under the RMA and had failed to put the health of the water first. Te Mana o te Wai was viewed as setting a high-level message and suggesting that '*the river is the same as us.*' This was seen as a recognition of environmental values and seen as an opportunity to prioritise and focus on them. CRG participants viewed the FPR as a chance to create systems that could improve the water ('*make it work'*/'*make it happen'*) and focus on planning and measures to achieve these goals. It was recommended that there is '*spatially based identification of values in sites'* and that these should be protected. With a values base, there was comment that we can focus on enhancing the water – not just preventing further degradation. The CRG members also advocated for the categorisation and management of different risks. It was noted that the current 'erosion risk' classes for forestry are too broad. The importance of data was also emphasised during discussions. Industry was seen as a key stakeholder/ player in taking actions and achieving changes on the ground (discussions with the industry need to take place).

6.1.2 Visions and values

CRG members were provided with summaries from previous engagement and literature reviews outlining visions and values for freshwater within the Coromandel FMU.

In reference to aspirations about water quality and biodiversity and ecosystems, one participant liked the idea of 'beyond sustainability' i.e. enhancement. It was noted, however, that there is no clear messaging about 'measurement' – even though we can improve the management of risk based upon measurement. One CRG member commented that environmental enhancement should be considered part of business and land use. Furthermore, it was recommended not to view riparian buffers as being separate from land use but as an integrated and essential part. Agreement was expressed with the notion of considering the down-stream effects of activities and land use. People should take pride in ensuring that their land use leaves water in better quality than when it was received. Another CRG member noted that it is important to adopt a balanced view that considers natural values alongside commercial values.

6.1.3 State of freshwater in the Coromandel

Like other FMUs, the Coromandel CRG members were provided with several posters that discussed different freshwater attribute measures for their area.

On a poster discussing stream ecosystems, one participant noted that sediment flocculates when it hits salt water; this combines with low flow in harbours to result in sediment deposition zones which can change the ecology (mangroves).

For the topic of reduced rainfall, it was noted that droughts affecting forest health will have a knock-on effect for stream shade since there will be canopy die-back and loss of bank stability. In relation to riparian management, there was comment that it is harder to fence streams for stock exclusion on sheep and beef farms than it is on flatter dairy farms. This can be encouraged by including timber or other vegetation with value inside fenced riparian margins. Efforts need to be made to adopt other land uses within farmland.

On a poster focusing on the topic of erosion, it was recommended that WRC considers referencing the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) to set expectations and management tools. In reference to catchment management, it was noted that ephemeral waterways are conduits to more permanently flowing waterways, and management of these ephemeral flow paths can affect water quality. One comment was that extra steep land cannot be clear felled or farmed but still needs permanent vegetation cover – WRC needs to identify these areas.

6.1.4 Final reflections

In reference to the topic of 'values', CRG members noted that there seems to have been a lot of consultation about this issue and this is what they would have expected to see as a set of high-level values. They noted, however, that it may be difficult to obtain social acceptance of Te Mana o te Wai in all parts of the community – this concept will be new for some people. It was promising to see that we do have some data available. The recommendation was that policy should focus on the tools that will 'get us there' (bridge the gap between policy and implementation) and that progress will depend on how well we work with industry (to work together on it).

6.2 Workshop two

The second Coromandel workshop was attended by three people. This online workshop focused on presenting draft objectives developed by the policy team and seeking feedback from CRG members. Four topics of interest were discussed: 1) Te Mana o te Wai; 2) Long-term Visions; 3) setting attribute target states; and 4) what is needed to accelerate positive change in the freshwater in the Coromandel.

6.2.1 Te Mana o te Wai – Draft objective

After being presented with the draft Te Mana o te Wai objective (see Appendix E), feedback provided by the Coromandel CRG members focused on the overall objective. The draft objective was described by one CRG member as being fairly broad and comprehensive, while another stated that it appeared to cover the necessary bases. A third added on that it *"seems pretty good to set purpose and direction."* It was queried if the wording for this draft objective was similar to/ based upon the phrasing in the NPS.

6.2.2 Long-term Vision – Draft objective

Coromandel CRG members gave the following feedback when presented with the draft long-term vision for their FMU (see Appendix M).

In reference to the 2054 timeline for Clauses (a) to (d), one person noted that this is *"a long way away"* and they thought there would have been something regarding the stability of headwaters in the interim timeframe. A comment made was that it was *"important we have a measure for either maintain or improve by 2034."* One participant suggested that the interim period could be focused on getting to the 'maintain' point and then the longer-term goals would be about improvements. Another agreed that there needs to be *"something shorter term."* A further recommendation was to identify the "*worst offenders*" by the mid-way point or have an indication that "*we are moving in the right direction*". There was also comment that it was difficult to set a short-term target at this meeting without knowing all the baseline data.

One CRG member pointed out that while the vision speaks to the ecological values, we also should be mindful of the water quality measures. It was noted that if land management practices around riparian strips go backwards, water quality may also go backwards. Another individual believed that if riparian strips are present, we should have some kind of improvement – and we need to be able to show that.

One participant emphasised the importance of recognising that upstream activity will affect downstream water quality. There was also comment that there is potential for sediment loss to the headwaters, particularly due to the influence of forestry. "*In 2035 if all the forest is harvested and sediment ends up in the stream we could go backwards. Can we represent this in some way?"*

It was questioned whether the vision highlighted the importance of wetlands. The argument was made that more wetlands will provide a filtering benefit for water quality, help to slow floods, and decrease erosion (coastal wetlands). A CRG member suggested that increasing the area of wetlands could be a goal, in addition to them containing more native flora and fauna.

In reference to Clause (d), one individual said this *"fits in nicely with having the midway point being stabilising."* Another questioned whether this clause referred to a certain percentage, or all waterways being above the national bottom-line.

6.2.3 Setting attribute target states

Coromandel CRG members were provided with some examples of potential principles and examples for setting target attribute states for their local freshwater (see Appendix N).

On the slide that provided an example of target-setting for bacteria in streams, one participant emphasised the need to understand what the baseline is. While the stream measures presented were macroinvertebrate data and *E. coli*, it was noted there are many other analytes to consider (for example, total suspended solids, sediment, and Biological Oxygen Demand). Another CRG member questioned what will happen if long-term targets change.

On the slide that described the possible principles that could be used for setting target attribute states, one participant noted that the overall principle is "good," while another said the target setting framework looks "really good." When discussing the long-term approach, there was comment that the long-term target seems rather limited for 80 years – one individual advocated for either more movement between bands within 80 years, or a shorter timeframe.

The suggestion was made that these target setting principles should be tied back to the 2034/ 2054 objectives and vision. In addition, it was noted that more water quality analytes be considered (and

proper lab analysis)– for example, "*TSS, BOD, metals, pH, eC*" to indicate water quality baseline and changes. It was recommended that WRC widen the focus from ecology values. CRG members noted that targets should differ depending on the attribute – it is not appropriate to apply a 'one size fits all' approach. They considered that some targets can be achieved in a shorter timeframe, whereas others will need longer for actions to provide results. It was stated that resilience for the Coromandel is important – we need to be resilient now to cope better for the future.

It was recommended that WRC adopt the SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound) goal-setting approach. We need to identify what it is we plan to improve. For example, if sediment is the primary issue for the Coromandel, this should be a key focus for the policy. In reference to the issue of sediment, another participant suggested that the target for *"sediment may need to be tougher in the short term to allow for the effects of increasing climate change to not cumulatively worsen base line,"* i.e. greater action is needed in order just to maintain the current state in the face of more extreme weather.

Event-based instream monitoring was recommended (triggered by high rainfall), in addition to WRC's regular monthly sampling.

6.2.4 State of the environment and accelerating positive change

CRG members were provided with a brief summary of the state of freshwater within the Coromandel and then asked what the Freshwater Policy Review should focus on to accelerate positive change.

One participant commented that management measures and tools with an industry focus are required. These would allow for different aspects to be managed – for example, staged clearing for forestry and mapping of streams and headwaters. Assurance systems should also be used as these will place onus onto the industry to document their own sites to prove their management of sediment. It was noted that this was now a part of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards for the very high-risk areas (forestry companies doing their own monitoring, especially after events).

With regards to sedimentation, one CRG member believed that event sampling is required, as TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) or NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) readings from streams during rainfall events will enable the identification of catchments responsible for sediment deposition.

One individual recommended the use of Geographic Information Systems for land and water management. This could be used to map out which waterways have or have not been riparian planted, stream orders, water quality monitoring points, etc.

It was questioned where WRC's current monitoring sites are and whether they represent the values of Te Mana o te Wai (and capture whole-catchment data). WRC was also asked about plans for further monitoring. With regards to the issue of monitoring, one participant noted that monitoring shows where sediment is coming from in different sub-catchments. It was noted that there is often an 'it wasn't me' attitude when things end up in coastal environments. Monitoring (related to event sampling) was also seen as important since it can help us to understand resilience – which is crucial with the onset of climate change. It was acknowledged, however, that it can be difficult and complex to measure the "right things at the right time." A portfolio of measurement and knowledge of baseline(s) is needed.

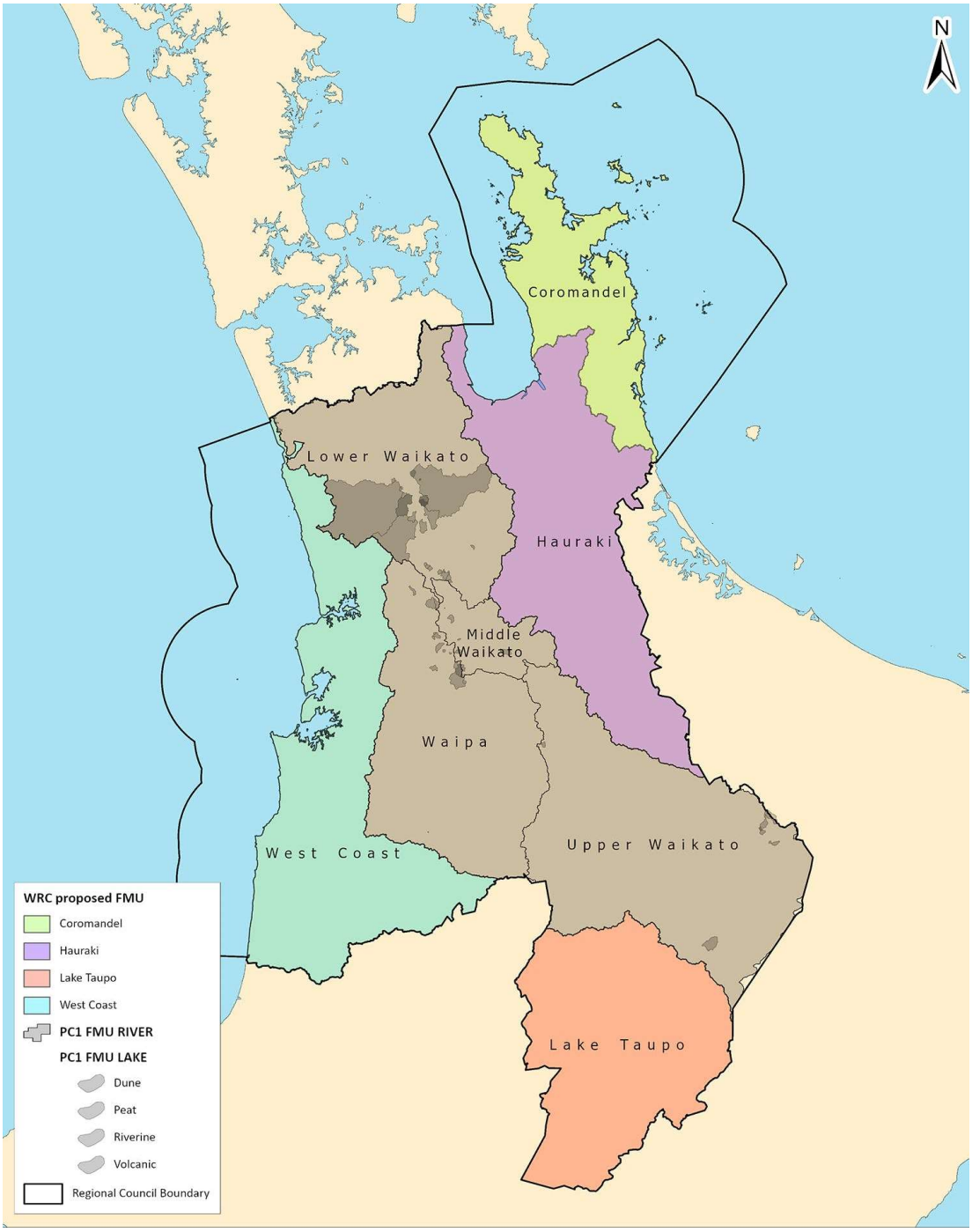
When asked what the policy review should focus on to accelerate positive change, most of the feedback centered on the issues of forestry and coastal wetlands. It was seen as nationally important that infrastructure is established to enable DOC forest to experience ongoing, comprehensive pest control in order to halt the decline in native forest health and start to improve its resilience. The

suggestion was made that the resilience of headwaters to intercept and absorb water would be improved by having healthy forests, due to pest and disease control. On the topic of forestry, it was seen as important to identify the highly erodible slopes and transition these areas away from clear-fell forestry.

In reference to the topic of coastal wetlands, it was stated that the protection of these sites requires specific plans. A participant commented that coastal wetlands need areas where they can retreat to, that are identified and protected from infilling and/or drainage. Another recommendation was to identify, plan, and protect coast wetlands over a short timeframe.

If conditions are to change, we were advised to use the review clause in long-term consents.

7 Āpitihanga A – Te Mahere Wae Whakahaere Waimāori | Appendix A – Freshwater Management Unit Boundary Map



8 Āpitihanga B – Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere a te Rōpū Hapori | Appendix B – Citizen Reference Group Terms of Reference

Freshwater Policy Review Citizen Reference Group - Terms of Reference

September 2022

1) Background and purpose of the Citizen Reference Groups

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) is reviewing its Waikato Regional Plan (WRP) and Regional Policy Statement (RPS), in response to central government direction set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) 2020 and within it, the step-wise process of the National Objectives Framework (NOF). As part of the process, we are interested in seeking input to inform and fine-tune the policy direction for different parts of the region (Freshwater Management Units or FMUs). We are seeking suitably interested, and/or experienced persons to participate in a series of sub-regional Citizen Reference Group meetings. Sub-regional Citizen Reference Groups will be aligned with proposed Freshwater Management Units boundaries in the region.

2) Objectives

The objectives for the Citizen Reference Groups are to:

- Provide input into policy direction, based on the knowledge and experience members bring about the local area, community and resource use, and considering the best available information from a range of knowledge bases (science, mātauranga Māori and community input).
- Consider the issues, current state of the environment, pressures on freshwater systems, obligations, technical information and input from tangata whenua and community engagement, as a basis for input into options to policy outcomes for freshwater and ecosystems.
- Alongside WRC staff, relate this local information and personal knowledge to the requirements and frameworks of the NPSFM and the NOF, including the overarching principle of Te Mana o te Wai.
- For the Waikato-Waipā catchments, Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato – The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River – is the primary direction-setting document for all freshwater policy. This provides direction for the Citizen Reference Group working in these catchments, who will also consider the Waikato and Waipā chapter of the WRP where proposed Plan Change 1 (PC1) changes need to be expanded and aligned to the NPSFM 2020. This process has no input into the PC1 appeals.
- Provide advice about engagement avenues to take emerging policy directions to local communities for further input.
- Consider the input from the community gained through WRC's engagement, and provide further suggestions to refine the policy direction.

3) Number and scope of Citizen Reference Groups:

There will be five Citizen Reference Groups, each considering different catchment areas in the region:

- Hauraki FMU
- Waikato and Waipā (river catchment combined) FMUs
- West Coast FMU
- Lake Taupō FMU
- Coromandel FMU

The scope of these Citizen Reference Groups is to:

- Participate in facilitated workshops to give input on policy direction
- Engage in discussion and provide views and perspectives, with no requirement to reach consensus
- Advise on avenues for local community engagement

Outside of scope of these Citizen Reference Groups:

- The Citizen Reference Group has no policy-making role or powers
- Citizen Reference Groups cannot request new science data or analysis.
- Proposed Plan Change 1 is currently undergoing an Environment Court appeals process. This group does not have any input into the appeals process.

4) Membership

Citizen Reference Groups will comprise up to 12 members each, selected by a panel of WRC staff.

The panel will be selecting Citizen Reference Group members based on their experience and knowledge, while aiming for a range of backgrounds and perspectives.

Members are required to work in a cooperative manner. Members must have access and the technical ability to participate in online facilitated discussions using video conferencing if necessary. Citizen Reference Groups membership will be revoked for disruptive, disrespectful or abusive behaviour or breach of confidentiality.

5) Roles and responsibilities

The Waikato Regional Council will:

- Provide a WRC contact person and staff to attend the Citizen Reference Groups' facilitated discussion
- Organise all face-to-face and online discussion sessions
- Make relevant information available to members at least 3 days before the Citizen Reference Group meeting
- Keep Citizen Reference Group members informed as the project progresses.
- Staff will be actively involved, engaging in the dialogue with Citizen Reference Groups' facilitated discussion

Members will:

- Ensure they can meet the timeframes and attend all sessions of the Citizen Reference Groups in person (unless the entire event is moved online) – no substitutes will be allowed to attend
- Commit to reading and understanding the information provided prior to the meeting
- Attend and actively participate in the facilitated discussions, which may be up to a day each in duration (a total commitment of up to 5 days)
- Act independently as a community member and not advocate for their organisation or special interests
- Declare any conflicts of interest as soon as they arise.

6) Timeframe and process

The Citizen Reference Groups will follow a 5-task process as per Table 1 below. The timeframe for participation in facilitated discussions in person, and online if needed, is between October 2022 and November 2023.

Table 1. Indicative outline of Citizen Reference Group process

Project phase	Group tasks	Includes
Beginning the journey	1. Forming and focusing the group	• Welcome, hear from tangata whenua • Induction • Te Mana o te Wai • Members' backgrounds and perspectives • NPSFM/NOF – the task
Understanding the issues and people's views	2. Sharing information and perspectives	• Current state vs bottom lines; pressures and current responses • Understand results from engagement Round 1 • Sharing thoughts and reflections
Identifying and testing options	3. Making sense	• Apply what we know to NOF steps • Explore/ generate ideas and possibilities
	4. Grappling with options/ directions	• Discuss options and direction • Prepare for engagement Round 2
Refining the policy approach	5. Considering feedback and advising	• Understand results of engagement Round 2 • Suggest further refinements

7) Payment

Membership of the Citizen Reference Groups is unpaid apart from a koha and contribution to travel costs. Any remuneration would align with council's policies for paying community members on representative groups.

8) Administrative support

The WRC will provide the Citizen Reference Groups with administrative support. Meetings will be facilitated with group notes recorded up front by the facilitator and staff taking more detailed written notes.

9) Free and frank advice

The Citizen Reference Groups will provide free and frank advice to the WRC in good faith, and with regards to the interests of the community and Te Mana o te Wai. Participation will be respectful towards other members and WRC staff.

This process will provide one of many streams of input into the project.

Participation in Citizen Reference Groups does not preclude individuals from also taking part in other community engagement or the formal submission processes under the Resource Management Act.

10) Confidentiality

The aim of Citizen Reference Groups is to have free and frank conversations between community members and Council staff. We ask that group members respect the confidentiality of views shared by individuals on the group when communicating with others any insights or information from the

process. As this is a regional council project, it falls under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, as well as the Privacy Act. This means that papers and notes generated through the process may be requested by members of the public, and released to them. Any information that is appropriate to be shared will not be publicly attributed to individual participants unless legally required. If any information is being considered for release under these Acts the WRC may consult with the person who provided the information before making a final decision on release.

11) Media

The Citizen Reference Groups, and Citizen Reference Group members acting in that capacity, will not make media statements or comment on social media about the process without the prior agreement of WRC.

If the Citizen Reference Group members are asked to provide comment on any issue relating to the process, the group member will forward the question or request to the WRC.

12) Conflicts of interest

Members of the Citizen Reference Groups will be required to declare conflicts of interest relating to the work of the Citizen Reference Group and using the WRC's conflicts of interest form. Conflicts may be real, potential or perceived.

The WRC will assess any declared conflicts, determine and advise the appropriate management of that conflict.

9 Āpitihanga C – Ngā Rā me ngā Wāhi o ngā Hui | Appendix C – Dates and Locations of Citizen Reference Group Workshops

FMU	Session No.	Date	Time	Location
Coromandel	1	02/03/23	3:00pm – 6:30pm	Thames War Memorial Civic Centre's conference room, situated at 200 Mary Street, Thames
	2	12/05/23	1:30pm – 3:30pm	Microsoft Teams
	3	06/11/23	3:00pm – 6:30pm	Thames War Memorial Civic Centre's conference room, situated at 200 Mary Street, Thames
Hauraki	1	27/02/23	1:30pm – 5:00pm	Paeroa War Memorial Hall (small hall), 144 Normanby Road, Paeroa
	2	28/03/23	1:30pm – 5:00pm	Paeroa War Memorial Hall (small hall), 144 Normanby Road, Paeroa
	3	09/05/23	1:30pm – 5:00pm	Paeroa War Memorial Hall (small hall), 144 Normanby Road, Paeroa
	4	18/10/23	1:30pm – 5:00pm	Paeroa War Memorial Hall (small hall), 144 Normanby Road, Paeroa
	5	22/11/23	1:30pm – 5:00pm	Paeroa War Memorial Hall (small hall), 144 Normanby Road, Paeroa
Taupō	1	14/03/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	Waikato Regional Council's Waikatoiti meeting room, 100 Horomatangi Street, Taupō
	2	10/05/23	10:00am – 12:00pm	Microsoft Teams
	3	26/10/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	Waikato Regional Council's Waikatoiti meeting room, 100 Horomatangi Street, Taupō
Waikato-Waipā	1	20/02/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	Waikato's Puna Kaupapa meeting room on the ground floor, 4 Little London Lane, Hamilton Central
	2	22/03/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	The Plaza theatre's Pavilion room, 50-56 Kensington Street Putaruru
	3	16/05/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	Taupiri War Memorial Hall, 18 Greenlane Road, Taupiri
	4	11/10/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	Les Munro Centre's supper room, 8 King Street East, Te Kuiti
	5	15/11/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	The Link's Media room, 4 Te Aroha Street, Hamilton
West Coast	1	08/03/23	9:30am – 1:00pm	The Raglan Sunset Motel's conference centre, 7 Bankart Street, Raglan
	2	11/05/23	10:00am – 12:00pm	Microsoft Teams
	3	30/10/23	9:30pm – 1:00pm	Les Munro Centre's supper room, 8 King Street East, Te Kuiti

10 Āpitihanga D – Whakarāpopototanga o ngā Hui | Appendix D – Overview of Citizen Reference Group Session Plan

Session Plans for Citizen Reference Groups for the Freshwater Policy Review

Overview of 5 sessions for Waikato-Waipa and for Hauraki

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY	1. Forming and focusing the group *W-W 20th Feb* *Hauraki 27th Feb*	• Welcome and introductions • National freshwater direction and our task • Te Mana o Te Wai • Understanding the results from Engagement Round 1
UNDERSTANDING ISSUES & ASPIRATIONS	2. Sharing information and perspectives *W-W 22nd Mar* *Hauraki 28th Mar*	• Long-term Visions & Values • Current state vs bottom lines
IDENTIFYING & TESTING OPTIONS	3. Making sense *W-W 1st May* *Hauraki 9th May*	• Test attribute target states to support values • Consider change needed to meet targets
GRAPPLING WITH OPTIONS/DIRECTIONS	4. Grappling with options/ directions *W-W 11th Oct* *Hauraki 18th Oct*	• Understanding results of Engagement Round 2 • Discuss options and direction ○ Test rules and action plan methods to meet targets
REFINING THE POLICY APPROACH	5. Considering directions and advising *W-W 15th Nov* *Hauraki 22nd Nov*	• Discuss options and direction • Test rules and action plan methods to meet targets • Region-wide approaches & what is specific to this area

Overview of 3 sessions for West Coast, Coromandel and Taupō (middle session online)

FORMING, SHARING INFORMATION & PERSPECTIVES	1. Forming; sharing information and perspectives *Coromandel 2 Mar* *West Coast 8 Mar* *Taupō 14 Mar*	• Welcome and introductions • Te Mana o te Wai • National freshwater direction and our task • Understand results from Engagement Round 1 • Members' thoughts and perspectives
UNDERSTANDING ISSUES & ASPIRATIONS	2. Apply what we know to NOF steps *Taupō 10 May* *West Coast 11 May* *Coromandel 12 May*	• Attribute target states to support values • What change would be needed to achieve targets
GRAPPLING WITH OPTIONS/DIRECTIONS, CONSIDERING & ADVISING	3. Grappling with options/ directions; considering and advising *Taupō 26 Oct* *West Coast 30 Oct*	• Understand results of Engagement Round 2 • Test rules and action plan methods to meet targets and address topics • Preferred options and directions

11 Āpitihanga E – Te Mana o te Wai (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix E – Te Mana o te Wai (Draft Objective)

1. The health, resilience and wellbeing of the Waikato Region's freshwater resources is restored and protected, present and future generations' connections with freshwater are sustained, and land and water are managed on a whole of catchment basis, to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai, recognising:
   - 1.1 That sufficient quality and quantity of freshwater is essential to the health and well-being of ecosystems and people;
   - 1.2 That people's relationship with freshwater is inextricably connected with their cultural, social and economic systems;
   - 1.3 The effects of human activities determine the health and well-being of the Region's freshwater bodies and ecosystems.
2. Tangata whenua are enabled to participate in policy formulation and decision-making processes relating to freshwater management.
3. There is sufficient water available to provide for the health and well-being of waterbodies, and provided that is achieved, water may be available for human use, provided it is allocated and used efficiently.
4. Water quality and quantity targets are established and respected, to reflect the cultural, spiritual and ecological values of freshwater as understood by tangata whenua and the community.

12 Āpitihanga F – Te Matawhānui a Taupō (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix F – Taupō Long-Term Vision (Draft Objective)

By 2034 in the Lake Taupō FMU:

a) The health, well-being and mauri of waterbodies is protected and restored where necessary, for present and future generations.

b) Freshwater is holistically managed in a way that recognises that the health of people relies on the health of the environment.

c) Freshwater management recognises Māori rights and interests in freshwater, creates an environment for sharing of traditional knowledge and practices and protects customary activities and principles - tikanga.

d) The cultural, spiritual, educational, environmental and economic associations with freshwater are recognised.

e) Sustainable land and water management practices support the achievement of clause (a) and ensure no new aquatic pest species are introduced.

f) Water quality is maintained where good, and if degraded, improved by 10 percent for all freshwater attributes from the baseline state.

g) Freshwater supports natural flows and ecosystems and is available for traditional and customary uses.

h) Fisheries and freshwater habitat that are degraded are rehabilitated and restored, and where it is not degraded it is protected.

13 Āpitihanga G – Te Matawhānui a te Tai Hauāuru (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix G – West Coast Long-Term Vision (Draft Objective)

a) The health, well-being and mauri of all waterbodies and their biodiversity is protected and if necessary, restored for present and future generations to sustain cultural, spiritual, social and kaitiaki needs.

b) Fisheries and freshwater habitat that are degraded are rehabilitated and restored, and where it is not degraded it is protected

c) Ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, taonga and customary rights are protected from adverse effects and inappropriate use.

d) The community is involved in contributing to the sustainable needs of freshwater allowing freshwater to sustainably meet the needs of the community.

e) Clean drinking water is been maintained, waterways are safe for human contact in 10 years and restored for safe swimming swim and gathering kai in 80 years.

f) Public access to waterways is improved.

g) Waterways are maintained, and the life sustaining ecosystems and habitat for freshwater flora and fauna have been safeguarded by 2050.

h) By 2034, waterways are clean, provide a safe habitat for all wetland birds free of predators and riparian margins are managed by removing pest willows, fencing and replanting with native species to support a thriving environment.

The outcomes sought in a) to d) are achieved by 2050.

14 Āpitihanga H – Te Matawhānui a Waipā (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix H – Waipā Long-Term Vision (Draft Objective)

By 2044 in the Waipā FMU:

a) The FMU is managed in accordance with Te Ture Whaimana o te Awa o Waikato – the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

b) Water quality, the mauri and integrity of all freshwater bodies, and their biodiversity is restored and protected for present and future generations by bringing the waterbodies back to as close as possible to their state 100 years ago.

c) Freshwater management reflects kotahitanga and mātauranga Māori knowledge and wisdom, customary practices and principles.

d) Fisheries and freshwater habitat that are degraded are rehabilitated and restored, and where it is not degraded it is protected.

e) Ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, taonga and customary rights are protected from adverse effects and inappropriate use, and wai supports traditional practices, mahinga kai, birthing and education in order to sustain cultural, spiritual, and social and kaitiaki needs.

f) The community take collective responsibility to sustainably care for and nurture the mana and mauri of wai as a treasure.

g) Existing wetlands are restored and protected and new wetlands are created to improve indigenous biodiversity and water quality.

15 Āpitihanga I – Te Matawhānui a Waikato ki Runga (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix I – Upper Waikato Long-term Vision (Draft Objective)

By 2044 in the Upper Waikato FMU:

a) Freshwater management recognises Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River and Te Mana o Te Wai.

b) The health, well-being, mauri and mana of waterbodies is protected and if necessary restored with abundant drinkable water for present and future generations.

c) Freshwater is holistically managed in a way that recognises the health of the people relies on the health of the environment.

d) Mana whenua are recognised as hei kaitiaki mō ngā wai - the guardians of Wai, customary practice and principles – tikanga are provided for and our mokopuna see the awa and wai as our tūpuna did.

e) Sustainable land use and management supports ecosystem health and the achievement of clause a) and b) while also conserving and protecting the productive capacity of land.

f) Freshwater management supports an environment for sharing of traditional knowledge and practices with present and future generations.

g) Fisheries and freshwater habitat that are degraded are rehabilitated and restored, and where it is not degraded it is protected.

h) Water has been allowed to be itself, in its common, ordinary or normal state, unconstrained, flowing naturally, and through our everyday lives.

i) Riparian areas are planted and rubbish is removed from waterways.

16 Āpitihanga J – Te Matawhānui a Waikato ki Waenganui (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix J – Middle Waikato Long-term Vision (Draft Objective)

By 2044 in the Middle Waikato FMU:

a) Freshwater management recognises Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River and achieved the Vision in 80 years.

b) % improvement [% informed by science] in all aspects of freshwater across the region in 10 years.

c) The health, well-being and mauri of waterbodies is restored and protected for present and future generations in a way that enhances the environment.

d) Fisheries and freshwater habitat that are degraded are rehabilitated and restored, and where it is not degraded it is protected.

e) Ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, taonga and customary rights are protected from adverse effects and inappropriate use and cultural practices and relationships are retained.

f) Land use opportunities have been recognised and taken within ecosystem health target attribute states.

g) Rivers are swimmable and the bottom of rivers are visible.

The outcomes sought in clauses c) to g) are achieved by 2074.

17 Āpitihanga K – Te Matawhānui a Waikato ki Raro (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix K – Lower Waikato Long-term Vision (Draft Objective)

By 2044 in the Lower Waikato FMU:

a) Freshwater management recognises Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

b) Freshwater is healthy, sustains abundant life and prosperous communities and the needs of present and future generations and improved back to its attribute state 100 years ago.

c) Ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, taonga and customary rights are protected from adverse effects and inappropriate use.

d) The community collectively takes responsibility for the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the freshwater.

e) Biodiversity of flora and fauna, endemic species including porohe, īnanga and matamata (whitebait species) are protected.

f) Wetlands area has been increased and provides safe habitat for wetland birds to thrive; increased freshwater species, and access to mahinga kai.

g) Waterways are safe, easier to access, and provide for swimming and drinking water, weed and pest free and no decline in water quality in 10 years.

h) Reduction in water takes and discharges of nutrients and contaminants to water in 10 years to provide for clause a) and b).

The outcomes sought in clauses a) to f) are achieved by 2074.

18 Āpitihanga L – Te Matawhānui a Hauraki (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix L – Hauraki Long-Term Vision (Draft Objective)

a) The health, well-being and mauri of waterbodies is protected and restored where necessary for present and future generations.

b) The community collectively takes action and sustainable land use and management supports ecosystem health, freshwater values and the achievement of clauses a) and e).

c) Freshwater is holistically managed in a way that recognised that health of the people relies on the health of the environment.

d) Freshwater is clean and accessible to provide for a range of values and uses, including drinking, swimming, mahinga kai and other traditional and customary practices.

e) Freshwater management supports space for all generations to interact with the awa together and ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, taonga and customary rights are protected from adverse effects and inappropriate use.

f) Fisheries and freshwater habitat, riparian margins and wetlands that are degraded are rehabilitated and restored, and where it is not degraded it is protected.

g) Water quality is above any national bottom line, further degradation is avoided and gradual improvements are made over the next 10 years with water quality at pre-colonisation levels in 50 years.

h) 90% of existing wetlands and wetland tuna populations are restored.

i) Public access to waterways is improved in 10 years and full public access is provided for by 2074.

j) Riparian planting of all waterways including with appropriate types of emerging forest around all water bodies is achieved by 2034 with developed forest around all water bodies and covering catchments by 2074.

The outcomes sought in clauses a) to f) are achieved by 2054.

19 Āpitihanga M – Te Matawhānui a te Tara o te ika a Māui (Hanga Whāinga) | Appendix M – Coromandel Long-Term Vision (Draft Objective)

By 2054 in the Coromandel FMU:

a) People contribute to the creation of healthier waterways as the health of water and our community are a reflection of each other and freshwater is the essence of life for all species.

b) Freshwater is clean, safe for drinking and contact recreation, swimmable, supports sustainable food harvest, and water supply is secure, for all species and for future generations.

c) Freshwater management supports healthy clean water for traditional and customary practices and space for all generations to interact with the awa together and to pass on to future generations.

d) Water quality is above any national bottom line and improved from the baseline state for all attributes.

By 2034 in the Coromandel FMU:

a) Waterways have a riparian strip of native flora, contain corridors for native birds and insects and are aesthetically pleasing.

20 Āpitihanga N – Te Hanga Mātāpono mō ngā Tūāhua Hei Tutuki | Appendix N – Draft Principles for Setting Target States

Overall principle

- Maintain or improve for each attribute

Long-term target

- Move all attributes up a band (e.g. from D band to C band)
- Within the timeframe of the Long-term Vision to be set for the FMU (e.g., Plan Change 1 for Waikato Waipa has an 80-year timeframe)

Short-term target – 10 years

- Target could be a 10% improvement on baseline state *OR*
- Close the gap between baseline and target by 20% of the difference