



Report 04.171
Date 18 March 2004
File X/32/01/04

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
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Proposed Changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan Water Allocation in the Mangatarere Catchment

1. Purpose

To obtain approval from the Committee to proceed with notification of Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan which addresses water allocation in the Mangatarere Catchment.

2. Background

Greater Wellington has prepared a Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment. The Mangatarere Catchment, northwest of Carterton, is an important water resource in the Region and includes the Mangatarere Stream and its four tributaries. The streams in the Catchment provide water for farming activities, contribute to the domestic water supply for the Carterton District Council, are a significant trout-spawning habitat and support a number of indigenous fish species. The streams also provide recreational opportunities for people, primarily for trout fishing.

Recent studies by Greater Wellington show that the amount of water abstracted from streams in the Mangatarere Catchment may be compromising their life supporting capacity. The Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment has been prepared to ensure the careful use of water in the Catchment while also providing for the ecology, recreation and other values associated with the streams.

3. Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan Changes

Earlier this year, Report 04.29 was presented to the Rural Services Wairarapa Committee. The Committee resolved that the Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment be incorporated into the Regional Freshwater Plan. Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan is attached.

The Proposed Plan Change Plan follows the same approach to water allocation that is used for other rivers and streams in the Region. A minimum flow is identified and a core allocation is established that sets the amount of water that can be taken. In times of low flow, a stepdown allocation of 50% of the core

allocation is initiated before the minimum flow is reached. A supplementary allocation is also provided for, which allows more water to be taken than the core allocation at times of high flows.

Once Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan is notified, it will follow the process set down in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991. This includes public submissions, hearings, and decisions by the Council on submissions, which can be appealed to the Environment Court. A timetable for the process is set out in Attachment 2 to this Report.

4. Strategic Context

The Regional Freshwater Plan lists the Mangatarere Stream as a priority for a Water Allocation Plan because of the potential for water shortages to occur in the Catchment. This change will bring the number of rivers, or parts of rivers, in the Region to 17 that have minimum flows and water allocations set in the Regional Freshwater Plan. It forms part of our work on “Water” in Greater Wellington’s Take 10 – Quality for Life.

5. Communication

Consultation was undertaken in 2001 to determine the values of the Mangatarere Catchment. As part of more recent consultation in October 2003, local residents, consent holders and key organisations were sent a copy of the Draft Water Allocation Plan for the Mangatarere Catchment. A public meeting was held and written comments were received from local residents and consent holders, farmers, the Department of Conservation, Fish and Game Council, Carterton District Council, Federated Farmers, Rangitaane O Wairarapa, Royal Forest and Bird Society and the Wairarapa Health Board. The comments from these groups and individuals helped shape the final allocation plan. Key organisations, groups and individuals will have another opportunity to have their say by making a formal submission through the plan change process.

6. Recommendation

That the Committee recommends that Council proceeds with notification of Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan according to Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Attachment 2: Timetable for Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

- 1 Make the following underlined changes to Table 6.1 - Minimum Flows and Water Allocation for Some Rivers in the Wellington Region

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3 Policy 6.2.1(1)	Column 4 Policy 6.2.1(2)	Column 5 Policy 6.2.1(3)	Column 6 Policy 6.2.1(4)		Column 7 Policy 6.2.1(4)	
Part of the river/ stream within which allocations in columns 4, 5, 6 & 7 apply	The location of recorders where flows in columns 3, 5, 6 & 7 are measured	Minimum Flow (litres/second)	Core Allocation (litres/second)	Flow required for supplementary allocation (litres/second)	Flow below which first stepdown allocation takes effect (litres/second)	First stepdown allocation (litres/second)	Flow below which second stepdown allocation takes effect (litres/second)	Second stepdown allocation (litres/second)
<u>Mangatarere Stream from the headwaters to the Belvedere Rd bridge</u>	<u>Belvedere Bridge</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>1200**</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Mangatarere Stream from the Belvedere Rd bridge to the confluence with the Waiohine River</u>	<u>Belvedere Bridge</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>1200**</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>0</u>

** the flow required for supplementary allocation for the Mangatarere Stream refers to the flow measured at the Mangatarere Gorge Environmental Monitoring Site, not the Belvedere Bridge site

2 Make the following underlined and strikethrough changes to clause (1) of the explanation to Policy 6.2.1:

The minimum flows for the Waipoua₂ and Upper Ruamahanga Rivers, and the Mangatarere Stream, have been arrived at as part of water allocation plans for these rivers that were prepared between 1996 and ~~2001~~2004. The minimum flows, core allocations, and stepdown allocations specified in these water allocation plans and Table 6.1 were derived using a variety of methods including:

- Evaluating instream assessment methods including WAIORA and IFIM.
- Assessing current water allocations.
- Evaluating baseline water quantity and water quality data.

The water allocation plans also give guidance in relation to a variety of water resource issues, hence they are matters that should be referred to when applicants are applying for resource consents, or Council staff are assessing resource consent applications.

Timetable for Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Public notice and call for submissions	24 April 2004
Public submissions close	28 May 2004
Public notice of the summary of submissions and call for further submissions	19 June 2004
Further submissions close	16 July 2004
Hearing of submissions	August 2004
Council's decisions on submissions	September 2004
Operative plan change (no references to the Environment Court)	November 2004