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Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee  
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## Whaitua Committee Process - where to next

### 1. Purpose

This paper outlines the rationale for making the decision to proceed with Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley as the next whaitua process.

### 2. Background

The Greater Wellington Regional Council (Council) has initiated a community led collaborative planning process to address a number of land and water management issues and to carry out its obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). This process is catchment based. The region has been divided into five whaitua or catchments:

- Ruamāhanga
- Te Awarua-o-Porirua
- Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley
- Kapiti Coast
- Wairarapa Coast

Whaitua committees will make recommendations to Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) report. These committees are a partnership between the regional council, iwi, territorial authorities and the community. The WIP will contain strategies and actions that will form a programme of work to implement the NPS-FM in the catchment area of the whaitua committee. They will include recommendations for both statutory and non-statutory actions and methods.

### 3. Timing of the Whaitua Committee process

At present two whaitua committee processes are underway, Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua. The Council has the capacity to resource two whaitua processes at any one time. The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee is due to report to Council by the end of February 2017. Te Awarua-o-Porirua is likely to report by mid-2017. This may depend on timing of modelling input into the

project. Early in the whitua programme it was planned that Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley would follow Ruamāhanga. However, due to a number of factors regarding readiness to start, Te Awarua-o-Porirua proceeded next. All whitua processes and subsequent regional plan changes need to be completed by the end of 2025, for the Council to meet its obligations in relation to giving effect to the NPS-FM.

#### **4. Criteria for considering where the next whitua process would proceed**

##### **4.1 Resource use pressure**

Is the water resource under pressure in terms of water quality and from water takes? How significant are the water quality issues? Government guidance on implementation of the NPS-FM suggests that councils prioritise areas based on water quality issues and resource use pressure.

##### **4.2 Integration with other processes**

Are there processes which could be integrated with the whitua process or which would become better aligned if the whitua process was proceeding? Are there risks in processes diverging if a whitua process is delayed?

##### **4.3 Readiness and willingness of partners and stakeholders to participate**

Are our partners, including iwi authorities and local councils ready and willing to participate? Is Wellington Water willing to participate and assist in resourcing the process?

##### **4.4 Ability to give effect to NPS-FM by 2025**

Are there any sequencing issues that would assist the council in meeting its obligations in meeting the 2025 deadline in giving effect to the NPS-FM?

##### **4.5 Community expectations**

Are there any risks to the whitua programme from community expectations?

#### **5. Analysis**

The table below provides an analysis for each of the two potential next whitua processes, Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast, using the criteria from section 4 of this report.

	<b>Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley</b>	<b>Kapiti Coast</b>
<b>Resource use pressure</b>	Significant water quality issues in urban streams, and localised issues in the harbour. Significant pressure from municipal water takes in the Hutt Valley.	Localised water quality issues and minor water allocation issues.
<b>Integration with other processes</b>	Integration with the Wellington Water Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) process and alignment of stormwater and	None.

	waste water consenting processes is a key component of the Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley whitua. Divergence of the whitua and ICMP processes would greatly reduce the effectiveness of the NPS-FM implementation.	
<b>Readiness and willingness to participate</b>	Iwi and city councils willing but need some time to gear up. Wellington Water willing and prepared to resource.	Partners are ready. District council wants more time.
<b>Give effect to NPS-FM by 2025</b>	Will be a significant process, probably the longest whitua process. Regional plan changes likely to be significant and take time.	Along with Wairarapa Coast, less complex and will be quicker.
<b>Community expectations</b>	High community expectations in the Hutt Valley. Some expectation with community groups already involved in stormwater and wastewater conversations in Wellington City.	Low level of awareness.

## 6. Next steps

It is anticipated that the Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley whitua would be fully underway at the start of July 2017 (the start of the 2017-18 financial year). Prior to that the process of committee selection would take place in the first half of 2017. Publicity regarding the whitua, what the committee does, committee selection, and expectations of the committee would start in late 2016. Planning with Wellington Water regarding their input into the process, including staff resourcing as well as science and modelling would occur at the same time.

Preparations for the Kapiti Coast whitua would start mid-2017 with the whitua committee starting its work late 2017 or early 2018. This will depend on the actual completion date for Te Awarua-o-Porirua whitua process.

## 7. Communication

The Committee is not making a decision to which the decision making requirements apply as this report is solely for receiving and noting.

## 8. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for the purpose of understanding the rationale for the Wellington Harbour / Hutt Valley being the next whitua process to commence.

### 8.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## **9. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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