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Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee
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Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework and Method 2

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to introduce the following:

- the Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework; and
- the progress on Method 2 of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP).

2. Background

Mana whenua first identified the need for cultural health monitoring in the development of the Regional Monitoring Plan (2001). The Regional Policy Statement (2007) reconfirmed the need for a managed approach to provide for mana whenua values. It identified priority resource management issues for the region's iwi. These are:

1. Lack of involvement in resource management decision-making
2. Loss of mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters
3. Quality, quantity and access to mahinga kai, and natural resources used for customary purposes
4. Degradation and destruction of spiritual and cultural historic heritage values

In agreement with Ara Tahi, GWRC was determined to actively engage iwi in resource management planning processes.

3. The Drivers for the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework

The project need is driven by national, regional and catchment community (whaitua process) drivers. The Resource Management Act (RMA) under section 6 recognises Māori customary and environmental relationships as

matters of national importance. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPS-FM) directs Councils to work with iwi to identify their values and interests in fresh water and to ensure that they are reflected in freshwater management and decision-making. The Resource Management Amendment Bill (2015) has put forward suggested changes that, if passed into legislation, may require Councils to specify their relationship with iwi through mana whakahono and iwi participation arrangements.

In the Greater Wellington Region, Te Upoko Taiao committee has addressed the decision-making requirement of the NPS-FM through parity of direct iwi participation on Committee and through objectives, policies, methods and schedules in the PNRP. In particular, PNRP Objective O5 which includes Māori values as key determinants for all regional water quality. In this new paradigm GWRC takes responsibility for managing and reporting on the most important water values identified by iwi (including mahinga kai and mauri). Objective 5 takes the Region's long standing governance and planning partnership into an operative space. Implementation and integration of values and practice models will require commitment to the detail of collaborative partnership across both GWRC and iwi business units and the investment of new resources into information gathering and staff development.

Other important drivers include:

- the needs of whitua committees who will complete the regional plan process through the establishment of catchment scale water quality and quantity limits, and management strategies (whaitua implementation programmes or WIP's) to achieve them.
- significant resource consents (e.g. flood protection consent renewals, harbour dredging, national roads of significance, airport extension, stormwater consents).
- Environmental Science department (ESci) science strategy goal 4 of iwi partnership in designing and implementing regional monitoring programmes and post settlement co-management agreements with iwi on significant water bodies e.g. Wairarapa Moana and Te Awarua-o-Porirua.

4. Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework: Project Approach

There are two components to Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework. These are:

1. Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) Method 2 (M2):

Wellington Regional Council (WRC) will work with mana whenua kaitiaki to develop and implement, by December 2017, an information and monitoring strategy that is consistent with Mātauranga Māori and achieves the following:

- a) identifies tohu and provides resources that enable the measurement of huanga for mahinga kai and Māori customary use, and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa; and

- b) identifies tikanga needed to monitor tohu; and
- c) provides a reporting structure that enables kaitiaki information to contribute to the region's State of the Environment reporting; and
- d) ensures information is accessible and relevant to Māori.

M2 establishes that the content and process for identification of mana whenua cultural values needs to be provided by mana whenua to ensure that the information has appropriate mandate and is fit for purpose. As this information becomes available Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) will work with iwi to determine how best to include and support it within the regional monitoring strategy

2. The strategic regional approach necessary to support the integration of iwi specific monitoring strategies (M2) into regional monitoring processes.

These two components will be delivered in three phases that will include the following:

Phase 1: establishing information such as Iwi values,

- Iwi/hapu information will be gathered through engagement with iwi, whitua process and Collaborative Modelling Project (CMP).

Phase 2: developing a strategy for monitoring iwi values with iwi/hapū,

- The information identified in phase one is applied to a strategy that enables the values, practices, species, places, timeframes and cultural determinants to be measured through local tikanga and kawa (policy and process).

Phase 3: developing the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework to manage integration across GWRC activities and provide ongoing support to council and iwi.

- GWRC is capable of monitoring and reporting on mahinga kai and Māori customary use
- Identify roles for hapū, iwi and GWRC in implementation
- Local kaitiaki monitoring is supported
- Iwi are contributing better cultural information to GWRC process (i.e. consents).

In order to effectively design a framework/strategy that benefits both iwi and GWRC it is necessary to move to a co-design model. The Poutiriao committee provide a regional perspective that will be essential to this process.

The project approach is based on the following key assumptions:

- GWRC has a responsibility to manage fresh and coastal waters for mahinga kai and Māori customary use;
- Individual iwi as mana whenua will determine and describe priorities for monitoring (what and where) in a monitoring strategy;
- Individual iwi will work with GWRC to determine when and how monitoring will be undertaken and by whom; and
- GWRC will develop a regional kaitiaki monitoring framework that enables monitoring of fresh and coastal waters for mahinga kai and Māori customary use, and is responsive to the needs of individual iwi monitoring strategies.

The Framework and strategies developed through this project will provide a platform for any future projects and programmes such as upcoming whitua. This platform will also enable iwi to participate more effectively and to inform and benefit the whitua process and collaborative modelling, as well as any future GWRC projects or programmes.

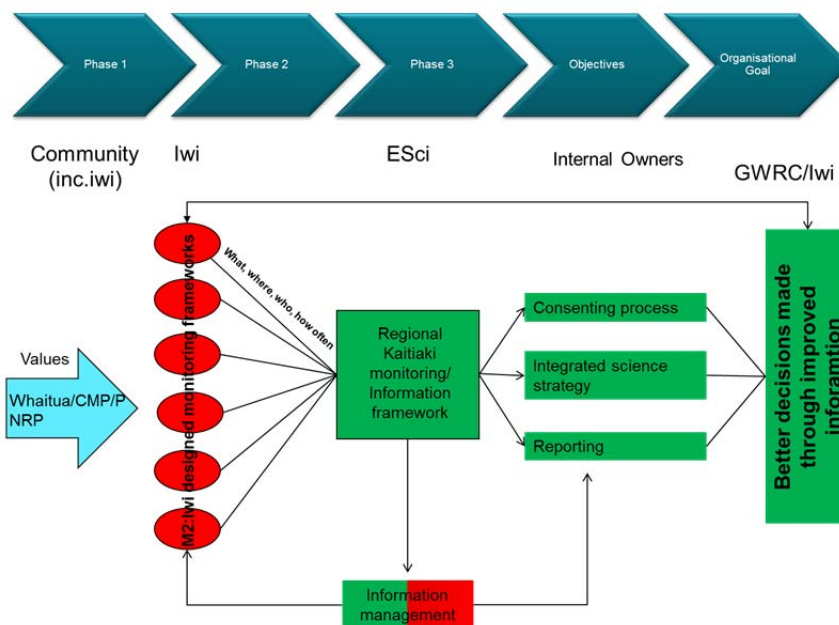


Figure 1: Regional Framework Phases

5. Alignment with GWRC/Iwi Memorandum of Partnership 2013

Development of the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework will enable delivery of partnership approach to resource management.

6. Progress to date

- December 2015 scoping group established to look at Cultural monitoring activities across GWRC.
- Presentation to Ara Tahi to seek direction on the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework project. Ara Tahi recommended that the project team needed to clearly identify the Councils' needs in order to effectively engage iwi.
- Scoping group identified the need for both iwi and GWRC to work in their own spaces in order to reach a shared space where there is co-development.
- Presentation to Poutiriao Committee to introduce the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework.
- A workshop with Poutiriao Committee to determine priorities for the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework. The discussion highlighted the main areas of concern for iwi and the need for funding.
- Started Environmental department internal stocktake of monitoring sites and how they relate to schedule B & C sites in the PNRP (sites and areas of significance to iwi).

7. Next Steps

The next step is to investigate funding options to develop the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework further by progressing M2 (phase 2).

If funding is secured there will be a need to continue one-on-one talks with iwi to support the development of their monitoring and information plans (M2). This will be done in parallel with the continued review of the ESci network and development of other monitoring projects such as the terrestrial biodiversity team's wetland monitoring project.

As the monitoring plans for both iwi and GWRC are formulated, GWRC and Poutiriao Committee will need to commit to continue working together using a collaborative process to co-develop the regional framework.

8. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

9. Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

10. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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