

Meeting: Strategy and Policy Committee

Meeting Date: 31 October 2023

Presentations

Agenda Item 8.1 Essential Freshwater- Community Engagement Summary

**Presentation - Essential Freshwater Community Engagement
Summary**

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Freshwater Policy

Community Engagement Summary

Strategy and Policy Committee
31 October 2023

Overview

- Introduction
- Participation by the community
- Key themes in community feedback
- Next steps



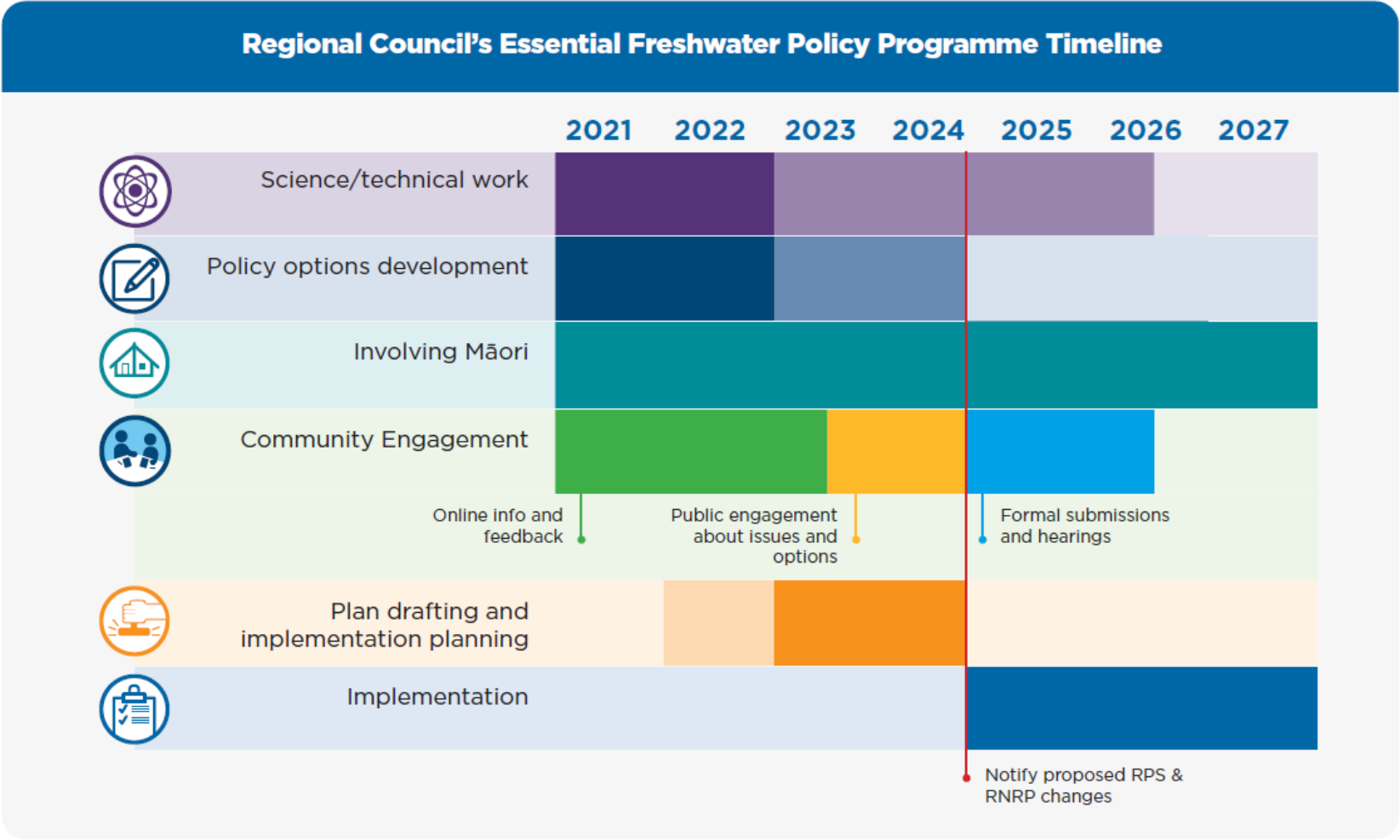
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes FMU, Te Rūnanga Tearooms

Purpose today

to provide a summary of key findings from the Freshwater Policy Programme April-September 2023 community engagement period.



Kaituna FMU, Whakaue Mare, Maketū

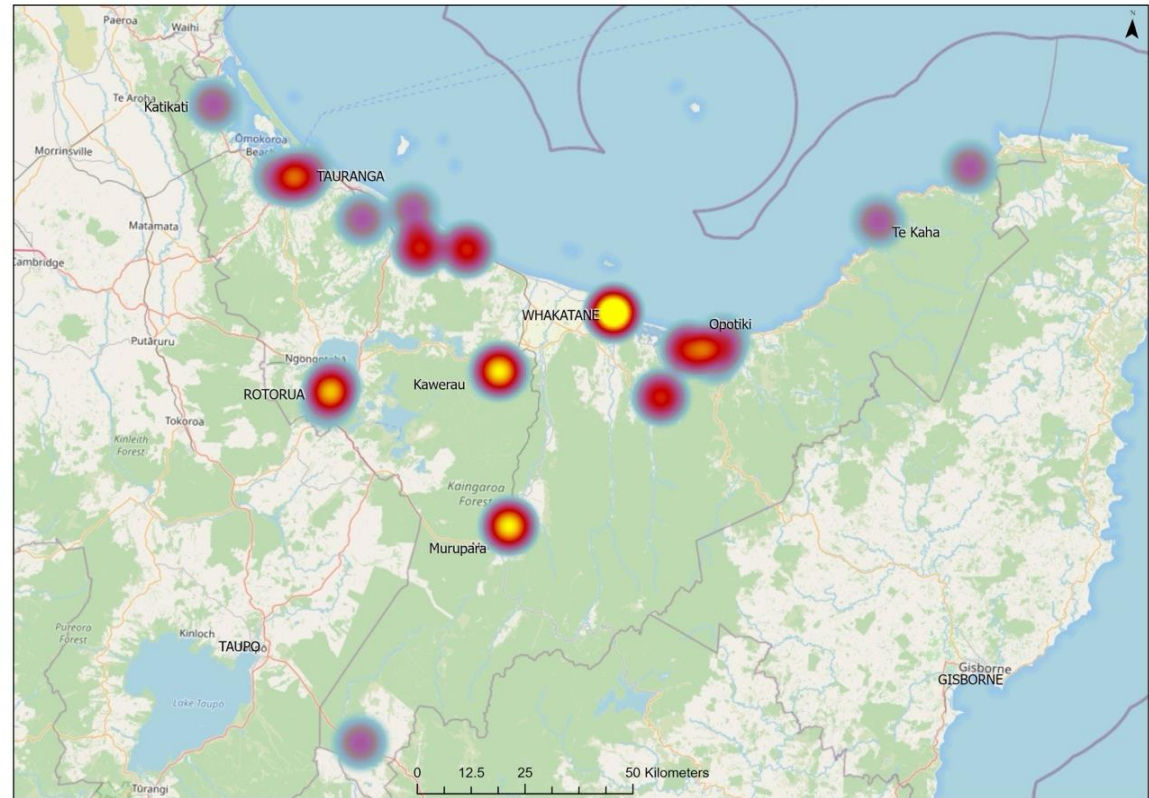


Participation by community



Engagement activities

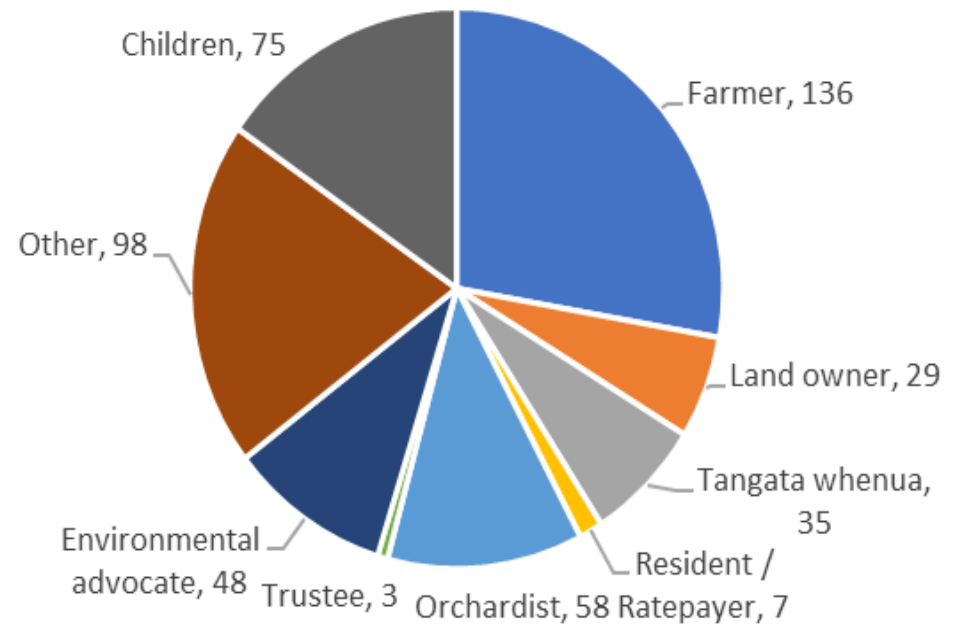
- 35 in-person events across 12 FMUS
- 5 online webinars
- Online feedback plus email and hardcopy booklets



Participation

- 530 attendees at event
- Average 14/event
- Typically stayed for 1 hour, but some up to four hours
- 240 views of recorded workshops

Event attendees by interests



Feedback on the process

"Dairy NZ appreciates the stakeholder engagement that Bay of Plenty Regional Council has held to date."

"Good to come to hapū. Discussions should happen on the marae"

"Until they can see what's in front of them, farmers won't engage."

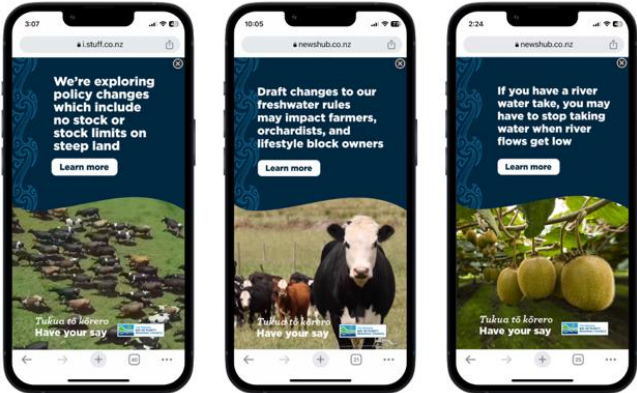


Tauranga Moana FMU, Katikati Memorial Hall

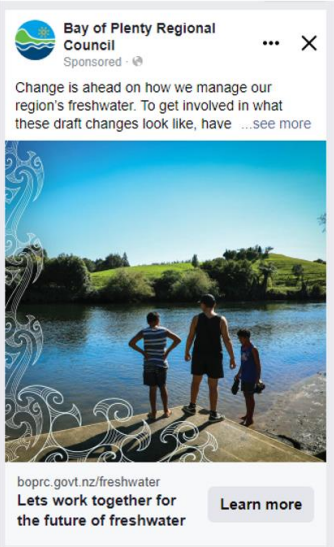
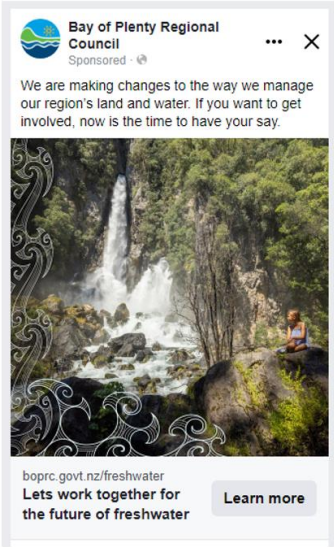
Communications

Facebook and Instagram – May - June

MetSERVICE MREC



Digital



Communications

Rotorua Bus Back

Draft changes to our freshwater rules may impact farmers, orchardists and lifestyle block owners

Tei Maori Bay of Plenty Regional Council is exploring what changes need to be made to ensure the health of freshwater is protected and improved for future generations. We've been asking the community for feedback on draft changes since April, but we don't think we have heard from everyone. There is still time to share your views. Come to an event, provide feedback online or request a booklet to complete in writing. Feedback closes 20 September. Tell us what you think now while the policy options are still draft.

Me maui taki titiro me te oranga tonutanga o te wai maori
Let's work together for the future of freshwater

Some of the significant draft changes being considered include:

- 1 There may be no stock or stock restrictions for grazing steep erosion prone land.
- 2 Low-lying land affected by salinity may need to be retired.
- 3 During dry periods, minimum flow limits will be imposed, which means you may have to stop taking water.

It's not just about the Council making decisions. The community needs to get involved, share opinions, and contribute to shaping these policies.

If you farm or grow crops you can also speak to your industry representatives to find out more.

For the full calendar of events, to find out more or to feedback online head to boprc.govt.nz/freshwater

Big changes are coming for farmers, orchardists, and lifestyle block owners across the region

Changes to the way we manage water in the Bay of Plenty are being considered. These changes will affect how we use water, how we protect it, and how we share it. The changes are being considered for the Bay of Plenty region, which includes the Bay of Plenty, the Bay of Plenty, and the Bay of Plenty.

Do you take water from a river, lake or groundwater for drinking or irrigation?

Do you farm, grow kiwifruit, avocados or other crops?

Are some of our rivers, lakes or wetlands culturally or traditionally important to you?

If you have answered YES to any of these questions, head to boprc.govt.nz/freshwater to find out about the changes happening for land and freshwater management in the Bay of Plenty.

Me maui taki titiro me te oranga tonutanga o te wai maori
Let's work together for the future of freshwater

Changes to Freshwater Management in the Bay of Plenty

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is leading changes in the way we manage the region's water and water resources. These changes are being considered for the Bay of Plenty region, which includes the Bay of Plenty, the Bay of Plenty, and the Bay of Plenty.

Grants for young netball players up for grabs

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is offering grants to young netball players. The grants are being offered to young netball players who are aged 12-17 and who are currently playing netball. The grants are being offered to young netball players who are aged 12-17 and who are currently playing netball.

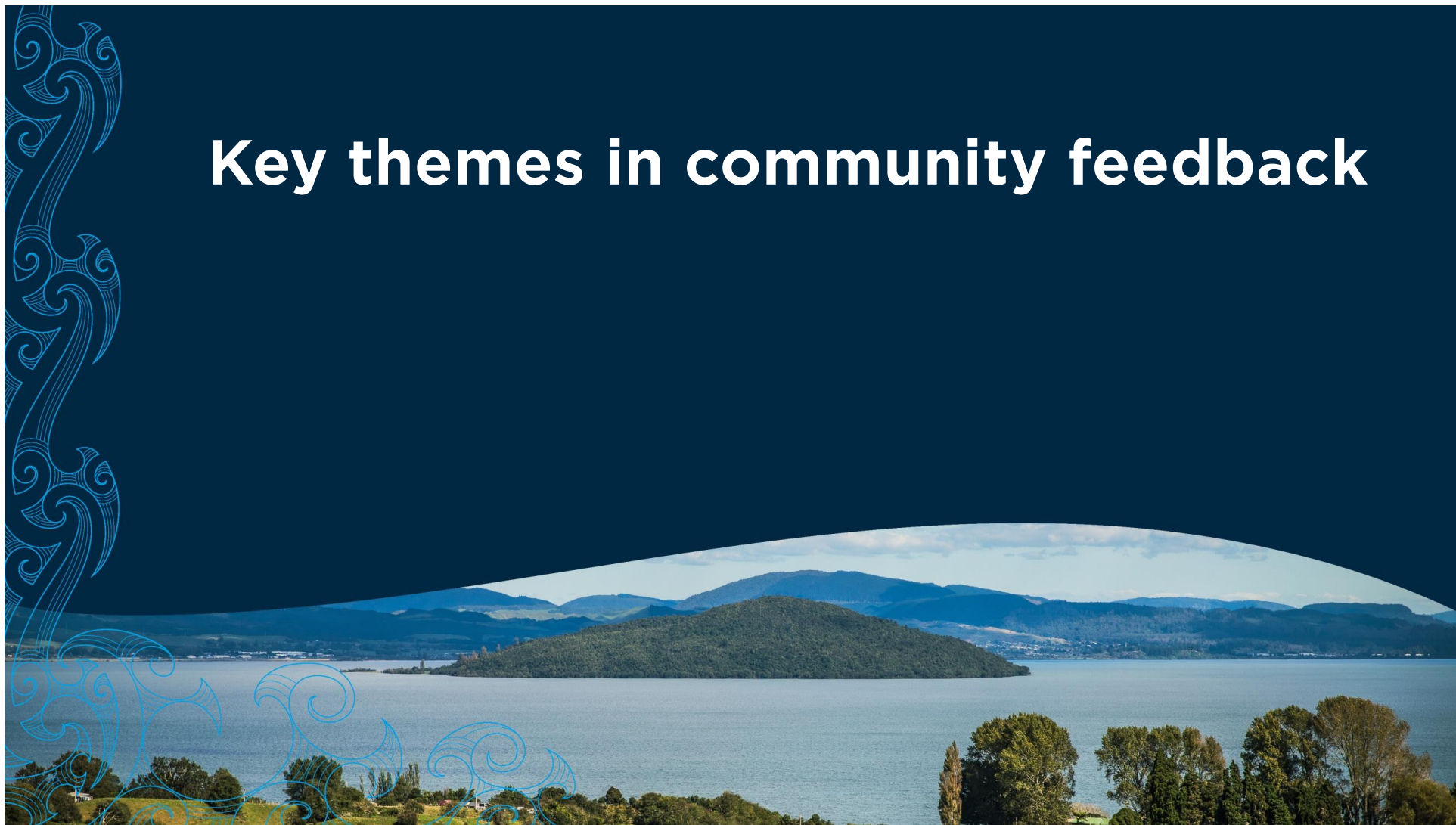
My team is ready to support you

Angie Warren-Clear is a professional netball player and coach. She is offering her expertise and support to young netball players. She is offering her expertise and support to young netball players.

Rural Mail Drop Flyer



Key themes in community feedback





Tangata whenua desired outcomes

- Tangata whenua inclusive decision-making right through
- Kaitiaki monitoring and projects on restoration
- Tangata whenua capacity and capability building is vital
- Use more natural methods of mitigating adverse effects, and manage permitted activities
- Mahinga kai value articulated in planning context

Tangata whenua concerns

- Tangata whenua denied water take while others increased take
- Questioning the water allocation methodology
- Increasing municipal water demand
- Mātauranga data sovereignty
- Restoration needed to be funded, such as through users-pay.



Visions and Values

- Environmental and recreational values are generally supported – both fixing what’s bad and protecting what’s good.
- Drinking water is a priority for human and animal welfare.
- Food production and security is also important.
- Agriculture, horticulture and industrial uses are important for supporting social and economic well-being.
- Industries wanted certainty to operate; communities were concerned about their discharges.
- People want a practical approach.
- Other hot issues – rubbish dumping, overfishing, pest animals & plants.



Water Quality Options – General

- Communities want clean water but have different ideas of how to achieve it, who should pay for it, and how other priorities fit in.
- People want more detail – important implications.
- What's achievable – with impacts of climate, pests, and natural sources?
- Rural vs urban contributions to issues and actions.
- Forestry – don't want to be like Gisborne.
- Climate – policy needs to enable adaptation.
- People want efficiency, efficacy, certainty, fairness and flexibility.
- More support and incentives are wanted.



Water Quality Options – Land Management

- Farmers are worried rules will put them out of business.
- Will there be compensation for loss in productivity?
- Support for managing erosion but not blunt slope rules.
- Support for protecting waterways but not specific setbacks.
- Pest plants and flood protection - ongoing management cost.
- Prefer flexible approach like FW-FP, not input controls.
- Need time to adjust, allow for lag, and implement existing rules first.
- Proactive farmers don't want more rules but do want others to catch up.



Feedback on water quantity

- Setting minimum flow at habitat protection is generally supported.
- Water users support more reliable allocation; certainty is needed for frost protection and stock drinking water.
- Received specific feedback on over-allocation and clawback.
- Groundwater allocation status only recently available
- Existing water users want certainty and will work together to form water user groups.
- Water storage is supported, but its cost and efficacy were questioned.
- Questions whether current freshwater accounting, data and monitoring good enough.
- Concerns about taking water for uses outside of the catchment.



FMU Specific issues

- Improving sensitive receiving environments – lakes and estuaries
- Drainage and flood protection – in lowland FMUs
- Hydroelectricity generation water use – Rangitaiki FMU
- Industry and wastewater discharges – Tarawera FMU
- Gravel extraction – East Coast + Waioeka FMUs
- Concerns of highly degraded local waterways being overlooked
- Unclear for properties sitting between FMUs and regional boundaries.

Next Steps



Next steps

- Staff - draft plan change and continue working on section 32
- **11 October, and 22 November** workshops to work through the draft plan change and assessments in more detail
- **13 December** workshop including outline of engagement activities for 2024
- **14 December** Full Council meeting – approval to release draft plan change in January 2024 for targeted consultation



Whakatāne FMU, EastBay REAP;
Waiōtahe FMU, Waiotahe Hall