



Meeting: Strategy and Policy Committee Workshop

Meeting Date: 19 March 2024

Presentation

Item 1 **Freshwater Policy Programme -
Progressing draft Regional Policy
Statement Change 7 (Freshwater) and
draft Regional Natural Resources Plan
Change 19 (Freshwater)**

Presentation - Freshwater Policy Programme

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Freshwater Policy Programme

Timeline and policy topics for further consideration

Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting

19 March 2024



Purpose today

- To consider the new timeline to meet Sept 2025, particularly for the draft plan change release
- To discuss which policy topics should be progressed in light of pending changes to national freshwater policy and regulations.



<h1>2024 Timeline</h1> <p><i>Section 4, p. 4</i></p>	
Date	Council reports and decisions
9 April	Strategy and Policy Committee meeting – reconsider key policy options
21 May	Strategy and Policy Committee workshop – reconsider key policy options
5 June / 25 June	Full Council OR Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting: Approval of draft RPS Change 7 (Freshwater) and RNRP Change 19 (Freshwater) for targeted release, discussions and feedback with key partners and stakeholders.
1 July	Draft RPS Change 7 (Freshwater) and RNRP Change 19 (Freshwater) released.
End of August	Feedback period closes
30 October	Strategy and Policy Committee workshop – summary of feedback received
10 December	Substantial policy amendments recommended in response to feedback

2025 Timeline

February	Convene iwi and co-governance discussions to support their appointment of a Freshwater Hearings Panel representatives.
February – April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RMA, Section 80A decisions – approval that changes are freshwater related topics to go through Freshwater Planning Process 2. Select two Freshwater Hearings Panel representatives
February -June	<p>Policy topics – Receive final text and s.32 evaluations and approve position.</p> <p>Receive and approve draft approach to Action Planning, draft Implementation Plan and draft Monitoring plan (required by the NPSFM 2020)</p>
August	Full Council meeting: Adoption of proposed RPS Change 7 (Freshwater) and RNRP Change 19 (Freshwater)
September	Notify proposed RPS Change 7 (freshwater) and RNRP Change 19 (Freshwater)



2024 Timeline

KEY DIRECTION: timing for targeted release of draft plan changes for feedback

Why?

- Meets RMA requirements to consult with iwi organisations, TLAs and ministries
- Enables detailed discussion and feedback from key stakeholders
- Informs our assessment and your policy decisions in 2025

Draft plan change release options

Options	Pros	Cons
<p>Recommended: Targeted release in July 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets RMA requirements to consult with iwi organisations, TLAs and ministries • Enables detailed discussion and feedback from key stakeholders to inform assessment and decisions in 2025 • Allows sufficient time to properly review and respond to feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High degree of uncertainty about national policy amendments and likely consistency with these. Messaging would have to make this clear.
<p>Alternative: Targeted release later (Nov/Dec 2024 latest)</p> <p>Discussions with stakeholders on specific topics prior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets RMA requirements to consult with iwi organisations, TLAs and ministries • Enables detailed discussion and feedback from key stakeholders to inform assessment • Allows more time to consider national policy shifts ... although they are unlikely to be certain by Dec 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricts time available to properly consider and respond to feedback prior to decisions and notification in September 2025.



What should we focus on in light of pending national policy shifts?

Section 5, pp.4-5

Assessment of draft plan change policy topics

Category 1:

Minor consequence and improves RPS/RNRP useability.

Category 2:

Change provides environmental and land and water use benefits.

Category 3:

Moderate to high consequences with strong justification.

Category 4:

Moderate to high consequences and potentially affected by national changes



Recommendation

1. Revisit category 4 topics before releasing draft.
2. Progress plan change for categories 1-3 and amended 4.
3. Focus questions for draft plan change feedback on Category 3 and 4 topics.



Topics to revisit (in April & May)

1. Farming Provisions
2. Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations
3. Vision, outcomes and targets
4. Wetlands & Rivers Controls

Next Steps

1. To be determined depending on direction
2. Revisit some policy options at 9 April meeting and 21 May workshop
3. Approve & release draft plan change