

Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee – Whaitua Implementation Programme

Officer Briefing for Hutt City
Council

4 August 2021



Purpose

- To provide Council with information about the upcoming project outputs – the **Whaitua Implementation Programme** and **Te Mahere Wai** companion documents
- To give Councillors some visibility about the flavour of the recommendations
- Advise next steps for Whaitua process, WIP and Te Mahere Wai completion

The Whaitua Programme - Context

- Part of GWRC's response to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) and commitment to respond to mana whenua and community direction
- Community-focused process to determine desired outcomes for freshwater and other receiving environments and methods for achieving them. With representation from mana whenua, Councils, Community
- Recommends enforceable water quality targets to be set in the Regional Plan (Natural Resources Plan). Also non-regulatory recommendations focused on long-term change
- The scale of change to improve water quality is significant and the Whaitua Committee outlines a paradigm shift and practical actions this would require
- Important to have a Mana Whenua and community vision setting a path before national reform unfolds

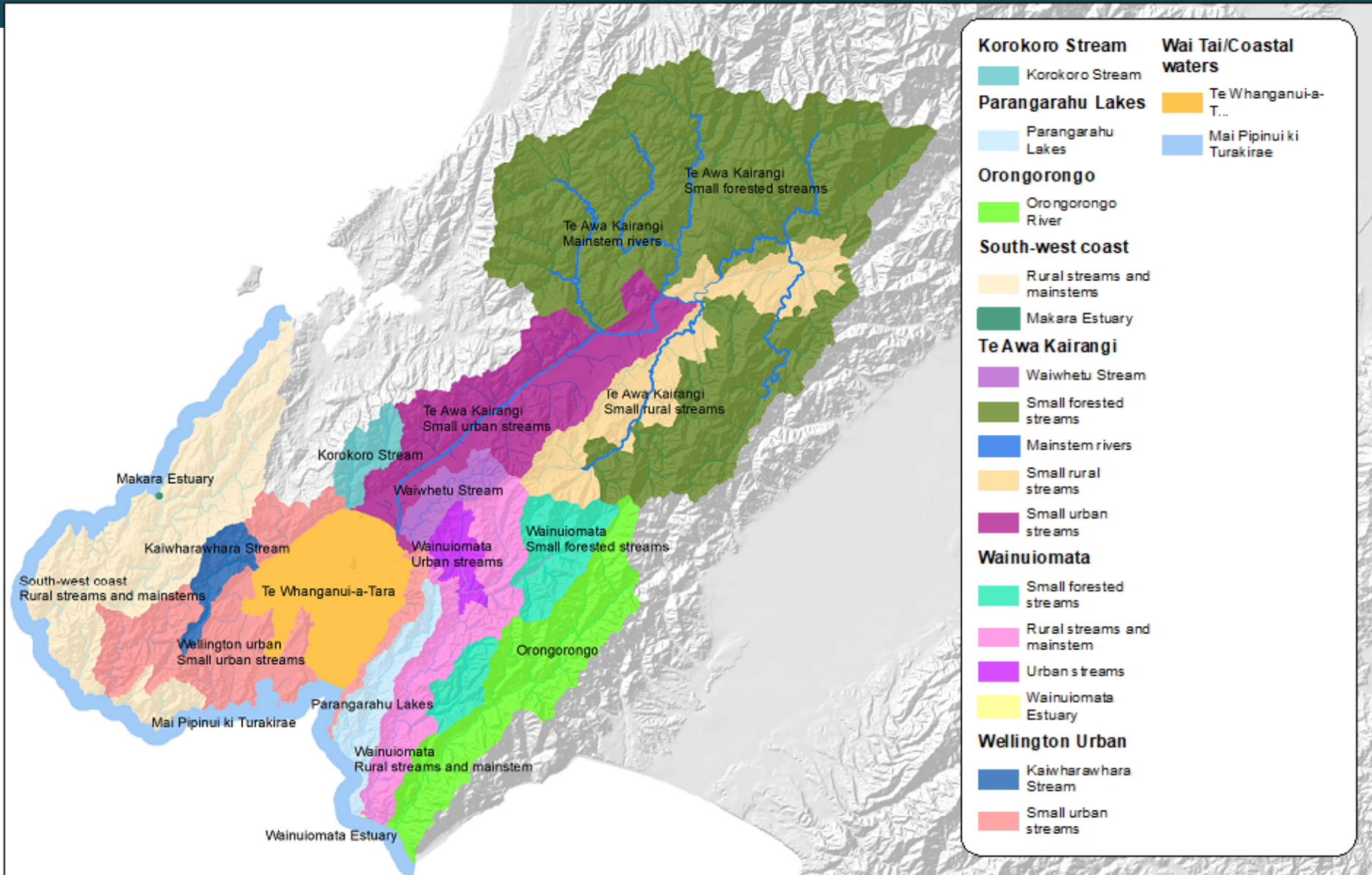
Te Mahere Wai o Te Kahui Taiao

- Established to enable a culturally safe space for Mana Whenua to discuss, debate and decide the issues and solutions
- Provides a unique forum for the collective “voice” for Mana Whenua
- This WIP is the first developed under the NPS-FW 2020 Te Mana o te Wai direction
- Direction to give local application of Te Mana o te Wai
- Recommendations and outcomes relating to the roles of Mana Whenua, agencies and communities in the management of freshwater

WIP contents

- Community and Mana Whenua vision and direction for freshwater bodies and coastal receiving environments
- Recommendations which will set us on the path to improving freshwater environments toward achieving Te Mana o te Wai
- The Committee has been intent on discovering and recommending the scale of effort, in practical actions, this requires to meet these aspirations
- Freshwater quality and quantity targets set for the water management areas
- Recommendations and targets will be implemented via the regulatory pathway or through proactive non-regulatory planning and investment

Water management areas



Key WIP directions



Key WIP directions

- Significant paradigm shift to achieve Te Mana o te Wai
- Significant increase in funding of three waters network required
- Fix faults on private land e.g., at point of sale
- Range of tools to reduce contaminants and their flow-on effects (incl. toxic algae)
- More (compulsory) use of water sensitive urban design
- Increased water storage – household and large scale
- Support for water metering for households as part of a response to reduce demand and find leaks

Key WIP directions continued

- Move to higher natural low-flows on water supply rivers
- Take a catchment approach – support community catchment groups and catchment plans – both urban and rural
- Grow community connection, including better availability of existing information and provision of new information
- Drive better protection of small streams and wetlands
- Establish a Steering Group to oversee ongoing WIP implementation

A brief look at some recommendation areas

REDUCING TOXIC ALGAE

The problem: An increasing problem over summer months – unpleasant to see and a health risk to dogs

The cause: Nutrient levels exacerbated by low flows/high temperatures

The proposed solution: Investigations and an action plan to address the problem



A brief look at some recommendation areas

WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN

The problem: The traditional stormwater design of getting rid of the water as quickly as possible no longer works

The cause: Increased intensity of development is causing stormwater capacity issues.

The proposed solution: WSUD focuses on the treatment and retention of stormwater to replicate a more naturalised flow using green infrastructure

WSUD to be compulsory on all new developments and opportunities for retrofitting in existing urban areas to be identified and taken

A brief look at some recommendation areas

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY CATCHMENT GROUPS

The problem: The ability of community groups and members to have input into the management of their water is currently limited

The cause: The lack of enabling frameworks and mechanisms

The proposed solution: New and existing community catchment groups to be better supported with services and cross-whaitua structures



Other considerations

- Scale of effort to implement the recommendations is significant
- Many of the recommendations will be incorporated in the GWRC Regional Policy Statement and Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region
- Hutt City Council's District Plan would need to be amended to give effect to any changes to the RPS [We will have the opportunity to contribute e.g. via planning managers and submit on the notified RPS in 2022 and it will take effect in 2024]
- Some recommendations will involve investigations into various issues and will have resource implications – as will some amendments to the District Plan Other recommendations will be outside the regulatory framework and will be a matter for Hutt City to consider and fund at the appropriate time

Other considerations – 3 Waters

- A number of the recommendations reflect/extend the 3 Waters related work programme agreed with Wellington Water Ltd (WWL) and funded in the current LTP
- Note that the whole planning framework is set to change with through the package of RM reform and so the planning mechanisms may be very different in the near future e.g. combined plans
- If this additional work was to be fully implemented, the cost would likely exceed the agreed level of funding (\$1.3b over 30 years) but the quantum of additional expenditure is not yet known
- The proposed restructuring of the 3 Waters service programme and the funding arrangements for the new entity may well also impact on the implementation of the 3 Waters related recommendations

Next steps

- Te Mahere Wai and WIP being tested with Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa
- WIP and Te Mahere Wai presented to GWRC (aiming for 23 September 2021)
- Opportunity for TAs to receive the WIP
- Online, interactive WIP developed
- Public launch event (date tbc)
- Implementation of recommendations.

Questions?