


6 Other methods


6.1 General

Method M1: Regional plan implementation and integration 

Wellington Regional Council will implement a work programme to support the use of the Natural Resources Plan, including the production of:

- (a) user guides for Natural Resources Plan provisions, and
- (b) guidance on permitted activities, such as the design and maintenance of **on-site domestic wastewater treatment and discharge systems, earthworks, vegetation clearance** and cleanfills, culverts and river crossing structures, and
- (c) information for the Plan users on the management of activities that have changed significantly from the first generation regional plans.


Wellington Regional Council will prepare protocols and definitions to guide changes to district and regional plans to avoid gaps, uncertainty and unnecessary overlap in regional and territorial regulations for the management of natural resources.

Method M2: Kaitiaki information and monitoring strategy 


Wellington Regional Council 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.

6.2 Natural hazards

Method M3: Wellington regional hazards management strategy 

Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with city and district councils and stakeholders to develop and implement a Wellington regional hazards management strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to facilitate a consistent approach to managing natural hazards between local authorities in the region.

Method M4: Sea level rise 

Wellington Regional Council will develop regional guidance for managing the impacts from sea level rise. This will include providing the best available information on the local rates of change using tide gauge records and continuous

GPS records to understand relative sea level change and forecast estimates using the latest internationally peer-reviewed science and measurements.

Forecasts of sea level rise will be reviewed after each Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and a re-analysis of the local rates of sea level change will be undertaken at least every 10 years.

The purpose of this is to enable a consistent approach between local authorities to manage climate change related coastal hazards.

6.3 Air quality

Method M5: Polluted airsheds

Wellington Regional Council will work with central government agencies, city and district councils and stakeholders to develop and implement airshed action plans for **polluted airsheds**. The action plans will identify and address the human and social behaviour changes required to meet the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality by 2020.

6.4 Land and water

6.4.1 Implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

Method M6: National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management strategy

Wellington Regional Council, in partnership with their iwi partners, will give full effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2014) (NPS-FM) through a programme of defined time-limited stages in accordance with Policy E1(c) of the NPS-FM. Council's NPS-FM implementation programme, and detail on the **whaitua implementation programmes**, are publically available on websites maintained by Council and the Ministry for the Environment.

Method M7: Outstanding water bodies

Wellington Regional Council will:

- (a) review criteria in the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region 2013 used to identify outstanding rivers and lakes for indigenous ecosystem values, and
- (b) work with relevant statutory agencies and stakeholders to establish an expert panel to develop and apply criteria for outstanding recreational values of rivers and lakes in the region, and
- (c) work with territorial authorities to develop and apply criteria for outstanding landscape values of rivers and lakes, and
- (d) work with **mana whenua** to develop and apply criteria to identify water bodies with outstanding cultural and spiritual values by June 2021, and

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Wellington Fish and Game Council – Consent order granted 14 September 2021 Topic 42 Biodiversity

- (e) amend the Plan, after consultation with interested parties, through plan change or variation to include outstanding rivers and lakes identified in (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.

6.4.2 Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour restoration

Method M8: Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour restoration



Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, and stakeholders to address ecological **restoration** in Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. The parties will work with landowners and community groups in order to:

- (a) reduce the amount of sediment entering the harbour, and
- (b) reduce the amount of pollutants entering the harbour, and
- (c) restore estuarine and freshwater environments.

6.4.3 Wairarapa Moana

Method M9: Wairarapa Moana

Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, landowners and the community to restore the ecological values and improve the water quality of **Wairarapa Moana**. Management activities will include, but are not limited to:

- (a) monitoring, including kaitiaki and landowner information and monitoring, and
- (b) protecting and restoring the habitats of indigenous plants and animals, and
- (c) managing pest plants and animals, and introduced aquatic species that impact on indigenous biodiversity and
- (d) incorporating ecological, cultural and economic values into flood protection practices.

6.4.4 Improving water quality

Method M10: Water quality investigations and remediation actions



Wellington Regional Council will further investigate effects, establish or confirm causality, and through the **whaitua implementation programme** develop appropriate remediation and/or containment programmes to address water quality issues in the catchments and/or groundwater zones for the following priority areas:

- (a) Parkvale Stream – examine reasons for elevated nitrate and periphyton levels, and the associated Taratahi groundwater zone for elevated nitrate levels, by 2017, and
- (b) Te Ore Ore, Tauherenikau and Martinborough groundwater – examine reasons for elevated nitrate levels, by 2017, and

- (c) Waipoua River and Ruamāhanga River – examine reasons for elevated toxic cyanobacteria events, by 2018, and
- (d) Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River – examine reasons for elevated toxic cyanobacteria events, by 2018, and
- (e) Te Horo groundwater – examine reasons for elevated nitrate levels, by 2018, and
- (f) Ōtaki groundwater – examine reasons of elevated nitrate levels, by 2018, and
- (g) Mangaone Stream – examine reasons for poor macroinvertebrate community health and elevated macrophyte growth, by 2018, and
- (h) Mangapouri Stream – examine reasons for poor macroinvertebrate community health, elevated macrophyte growth and elevated faecal contamination, by 2018, and
- (i) Lake Waitawa – examine reasons for elevated nutrient, phytoplankton and planktonic cyanobacteria levels, by 2018, and
- (j) Waiwhetu Stream – examine reasons for poor macroinvertebrate community health, by 2019, and
- (k) Awhea River – examine reasons for poor macroinvertebrate community health, by 2019, and
- (l) Riversdale groundwater – examine reasons for elevated nitrate levels, by 2019, and
- (m) Whangaehu River – examine reasons for poor macroinvertebrate community health, by 2019.

6.5 Land use

Method M11: Assessment and reporting of Wellington Regional Council works, operations and services for integrated catchment management

Wellington Regional Council will assess and report on how their works, operations and services adhere to the principles of integrated catchment management, as described in Policy P1, by requiring:

- (a) each department to assess the works, operations and services that affect or potentially affect the Plan objectives and policies for land and water, and
- (b) each department to report annually on the individual and cumulative effects or potential effects of their activities on the achievement of the Plan objectives and policies for land and water.

Method M12: Sustainable land management practices



Wellington Regional Council will encourage sustainable land management by:

- (a) providing research, advice and promoting **good management practices**, developed in partnership with territorial authorities and rural and urban landowners and industries, and
- (b) working in partnership with affected landowners to identify **Category 1 surface water bodies** and **Category 2 surface water bodies**, and
- (c) developing, and assisting with the implementation of riparian management plans, critical source area management plans, farm plans and farm environment plans across a number of priority catchments, including:
 - (i) providing assistance with riparian planting, and erosion and sediment control for 50% of farms in the Taueru River, Kopuaranga River and Huangarua River catchments by 2025, and
 - (ii) providing assistance with riparian planting, nutrient and erosion and sediment control for 50% of properties in the Mangatarere River and Taratahi/Parkvale stream catchments by 2025 and Lake Wairarapa and Whareama River estuary catchments by 2023, and
- (d) collecting and providing biophysical information needed for adaptive management, and
- (e) providing plants through the Akura Conservation Centre for erosion control and riparian and wetland management, and
- (f) providing incentives, such as assistance with costs and labour associated with riparian and wetland fencing, planting and pest control.

Method M13: Wairarapa water races

Wellington Regional Council will work with Wairarapa district councils, **water race** committees and landowners to characterise the hydrology, water quality, ecology, and the economic, social, heritage and cultural values of the Wairarapa water races to develop management options for the **water race** systems by 2017. The management options include, but are not limited to:

- (a) identifying areas of management overlap and potential integration, (such as existing individual water race and district-wide by-laws, regional consents for the discharge of water to rivers from the races, and runoff and discharges to the races), and
- (b) options for increasing efficiency including opportunities for transfer of water takes or providing alternatives to the use of **water races**, and
- (c) options for retaining ecological values, and

- (d) options for improving water quality, and
- (e) opportunities for shared services, such as consent monitoring, education, and best practice, and
- (f) using a plan change or variation specific to rules for **livestock** access to **water races**.

Method M14: Maintenance of highly modified rivers or streams

Wellington Regional Council, in collaboration with landowners, industry, and other relevant organisations and stakeholders, will develop and implement an education programme, including good management practice guidelines, procedures and tools, to support the implementation of Rule R121: Maintenance of **highly modified rivers or streams** and R122: Removing vegetation.

The aim of this programme is to:

- (a) assist landowners and drain maintenance contractors to identify the different types of waterways on a property (**highly modified rivers or streams** and unmodified rivers or streams), and be aware of their ecological values, and
- (b) reduce the extent and frequency of maintenance activities associated with **highly modified rivers or streams**, including by implementing riparian and land management practices that **minimise** inputs of sediment and nutrients to waterways, and
- (c) identify and support the uptake of good management practice maintenance activities for **highly modified rivers or streams**.

Method M14A: Mapping of highly modified rivers and streams

Wellington Regional Council will:

- (a) maintain and update the map layer that identifies **highly modified rivers or streams** to assist with the implementation of Rule R121, and
- (b) where requested, assist landowners to identify whether they have a **highly modified river or stream** on their property.

6.6 Stormwater

Method M15: Collaborative stormwater working groups



Wellington Regional Council will facilitate a regional stormwater forum that will work collaboratively with city and district councils, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, and with **mana whenua** to:

- (a) work collaboratively prior to consents being lodged to support the implementation of the new consenting framework as set out in the Plan, including the development of **stormwater** management strategies and plans, a monitoring and reporting framework and ensuring coordination and consistency with the relevant part(s) of a **whaitua implementation programme**, and

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Appeal Topic 45 Drains and highly modified streams
Consent order dated 15 October 2021

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Appeal Topic 45 Drains and highly modified streams
Consent order dated 15 October 2021

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Appeal Topic 33 – Stormwater
Consent order granted 13 October 2021

- (b) coordinate **stormwater** management within the region and create efficiencies where possible, such as through **stormwater** education programmes or integrated planning for **stormwater** management within urban growth overlay areas, and
- (c) develop common understanding and design standards with regard to evaluating resource consents for new urban development and subdivision to reduce any potential inconsistencies with advice and decision making.

6.7 Contaminated land

Method M16: Contaminated land

Wellington Regional Council will work with city and district councils and stakeholders to develop and implement a Wellington regional contaminated land management strategy to identify and assess contaminated land in the region. Where contaminated land is found to discharge contaminants into surface water or groundwater, including **stormwater**, a site-specific action plan will be developed to remedy the discharge where appropriate.

6.8 Waste reduction and efficient use of water and energy

Method M17: Reduce waste and use water and energy efficiently

Wellington Regional Council will work with city and district councils and industries to reduce waste and encourage the efficient use of water and energy by:

- (a) providing information to support compliance with permitted activity conditions for land uses such as cleanfills, landfills, farm refuse dumps and offal pits, and
- (b) identifying opportunities and priorities for discharging to land rather than water, and
- (c) assisting the community to adopt sustainable practices and product-stewardship to:
 - (i) reduce, reuse or recycle waste, and
 - (ii) use water and energy efficiently, and
 - (iii) conserve water and energy.

Method M18: Water use groups

Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with water user groups to:

- (a) support water user groups, or voluntary agreements between water users, to share takes and manage allocations, and
- (b) support water user groups to assist with water sharing during times of restrictions or when the catchment is fully allocated, and

- (c) provide, where available, accurate technical information to assist user groups.

Method M19: Water management

The Wellington Regional Council will work with city and district councils, water users and industry groups to encourage the efficient use of water, including by:

- (a) establishing, operating, and making publicly available a freshwater accounting system for the region, and
- (b) promoting and providing advice on measuring and reporting of water permits, including the use of real-time, telemetered water measuring systems compatible with Wellington Regional Council's water use data management system, and
- (c) promoting and providing advice on suitable models that consider land use, crop use and other site physical factors that will meet the efficient use criteria in Schedule Q (efficient use) of the Plan, and
- (d) exploring alternatives to the use of water races, and
- (e) exploring alternative management options for water races, and
- (f) assisting landowners, communities and organisations to conserve water and use it efficiently, and
- (g) promoting water storage outside river beds.

Note:

The community drinking water supplier for the Wellington Harbour and Hutt Valley Whaitua seek a plan change to maintain security of the **community drinking water supply** in the future, in the event that the community drinking water supplier considers it is necessary.

Method M19A: Minimum flows and core allocation in Ruamāhanga Whaitua



The Wellington Regional Council will:

- (a) investigate Category A takes to confirm the level of direct connection to surface water bodies, and
- (b) undertake targeted investigations to review minimum flow and allocation limits, including Parkvale Stream, Booths Creek, Makoura Stream, Kuripuni Stream, and Tauanui and Turanganui Rivers, and
- (c) increase the number of low-flow monitoring points, and
- (d) investigate the size and nature of groundwater resources, including in the Pirinoa Terraces, Parkvale, Waiohine and Waingawa parts of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua, and

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Wellington Water Ltd – Consent order granted 11 June 2021

- (e) investigate integrated solutions for water reliability in partnership with mana whenua, water users, territorial authorities within the Ruamāhanga Whaitua community.

6.9 Biodiversity

Method M20: Wetlands



Wellington Regional Council will work in partnership with **mana whenua**, landowners, territorial authorities, and the community to:

- (a) promote the value of wetlands and advocate for their management, **restoration** and protection, and
- (b) provide guidance to landowners with wetlands on their **property** to assist with the management of those wetlands, including identification of wetland type, wetland boundaries, and appropriate management, and
- (c) develop and implement **Wetland Restoration Management Plans** in partnership with landowners for **outstanding natural wetlands** and **significant natural wetlands** as required, and
- (d) provide incentives to landowners, such as assistance with the costs of riparian and wetland fencing, planting and pest control, and
- (e) encourage and assist with the legal protection of wetlands through covenanting with the QEII National Trust, the Department of Conservation and Ngā Whenua Rahui.

Method M20A: Coastal Sites that meet NZCPS Policy 11

Wellington Regional Council will work with the Department of Conservation, territorial local authorities, Iwi and other parties as appropriate to:

- (a) identify sites in the coastal marine area within the region that meet the criteria set out in the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement Policy 11, and
- (b) produce a regional list of these sites for inclusion in the Plan by plan change or variation by December 2022.

Method M20B: Whitebait migration

Wellington Regional Council and the Department of Conservation will collaborate to better understand the effects of different activities on whitebait migration in the Wellington Region.

Method M21: Fish passage



Wellington Regional Council will support the maintenance and restoration of fish passage in the region by:

- (a) developing and providing information on fish passage, and
- (b) providing training and guidance to landowners and managers, including on design or retro-fitting of culverts and river crossing structures, and

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Minister of Conservation – Consent order granted 14 September 2021
Topic 42 Biodiversity

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Topic 45 Drains and highly modified streams
Consent order granted 15 October 2021

- (c) identifying priority areas for restoring fish passage in consultation with key stakeholders (including the Department of Conservation and landowners) and restoring fish passage in these areas as a priority.

6.10 Coast

Method M22: Integrated management of the coast



Wellington Regional Council will advocate for the integrated management of the coastal marine area, by actively engaging with **mana whenua** and other agencies that have governance responsibilities in the **coastal marine area** to achieve:

- (a) good communication and information sharing, and
- (b) the protection of sites and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal marine area identified in Schedule F4 (coastal sites) and Schedule F5 (coastal habitats), and
- (c) the **restoration** of natural character, and
- (d) improved public access.

6.11 Historic heritage

Method M23: Archaeological discovery protocols



Wellington Regional Council will require consent holders to have an archaeological discovery protocol in place, as a condition of resource consent, for ground disturbance activities. These protocols will ensure that appropriate actions take place should any archaeological material be uncovered unexpectedly.

Method M23A: Archaeological Authority requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

When applications are received for ground disturbance activities near recorded archaeological sites, the Wellington Regional Council will advise consent holders that there are also separate consent requirements for the modification or destruction of an archaeological site under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. This may be by including an Advice Note in conditions in resource consents.

6.12 Natural features and landscapes

Method M24: Outstanding natural features and landscapes and outstanding/high natural character




Wellington Regional Council will work with city and district councils and the community to:

- (a) identify outstanding natural features and landscapes within the region, and
- (b) identify areas with outstanding/high natural character in the coastal environment and the beds of lakes and rivers, and wetlands, and

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Consent order granted 29 September 2021 - Topics 7 and 8 ONC, ONFL, NC and processes


- (c) produce a regional list of these features, landscapes and areas for inclusion in the Plan and notify a plan change or variation by 2023 for the coastal environment and by 2026 for natural character in the beds of lakes and rivers, and wetlands, and
- (d) review the Plan's response to managing adverse effects on natural character, natural features and natural landscape classification outside the coastal environment once the Wellington Regional Council assessments under Method 24(a) and (b) have been completed.

Method M24A: Interim identification of outstanding natural features and landscapes and outstanding/high natural character 

Until the location of areas of high and outstanding natural character and outstanding natural features and landscapes in the coastal environment and the beds of rivers, lakes and wetlands are included in the Plan, Wellington Regional Council will assist resource consent applicants in determining whether an assessment to identify the areas and features described in Policy P24 is needed:

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Consent order granted 29 September 2021 - Topics 7 and 8 ONC, ONFL, NC and processes

6.13 Mana whenua

Method M25: Understanding and providing for mana whenua values and relationships 

Wellington Regional Council will work with **mana whenua** to assist communities in understanding and providing for **mana whenua** values and, in particular, their relationships with air, land and water within **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**.

Method M26: Encouraging the involvement of kaitiaki 

Wellington Regional Council will encourage the involvement of **mana whenua** kaitiaki in resource consent processes when their relationship with air, land and water or their values is adversely affected, particularly for sites with significant **mana whenua** values and within **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa**.

6.14 Contact recreation and Māori customary use

Method M27: Improving water quality in priority water bodies 

Wellington Regional Council in conjunction with **mana whenua** will develop and implement a programme to improve water quality for **contact recreation** and **Māori customary use** in the first priority fresh and coastal water bodies identified in Schedule H2.

6.15 Good management practice

Method M28: Development of good management practice guidelines.

Wellington Regional Council will continue to develop practices, procedures and tools (including rules) in collaboration with industry, other relevant organisations and stakeholders to support the implementation of policies which rely on **good management practice** to achieve desired environmental outcomes.