

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,¹ 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.

¹ S42A Report: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan, Issue 4.7

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 [International Intergovernmental² Panel of 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. Detail on the **whaitua implementation programmes**, are publicly available on websites maintained by Council and the Ministry for the Environment will develop an integrated strategy for the implementation of all matters under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2014) by December 2015, including the continuation of existing actions established to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2011), in particular the **whaitua implementation programmes**.³

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

² S42A report: Natural Hazards: issue 10.

³ S42A Report: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Issue 3.1

- (b) use 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 2021⁴, and⁵
- (e) amend the Plan, after consultation with interested parties, through plan change or variation to include outstanding rivers and lakes identified in (a), (b), ~~and~~ (c) and (d)⁶ 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 partnership⁷ with Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, ~~and~~ 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.

⁴ Supplementary RoR: Wetlands and biodiversity

⁵ S42A Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, Issue 8

⁶ RoR Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, issue 7.

⁷ RoR Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, issue 3.3.

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 ~~the whitua committees will~~⁸ [through the whitua implementation programme](#)⁹ develop appropriate remediation and/or containment programmes ~~within their whitua~~ 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.

⁸ S42A Report: Water quality, Issue 8.2

⁹ RoR Report: Water quality (Rachel Pawson), Section 18

6.5 Rural~~IL~~¹⁰ and 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 rural¹¹ land management by:

- (a) providing research, advice and promoting **good management practices**, developed in partnership with territorial authorities and rural and urban landowners and ~~rural~~-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

¹⁰ S42A Report: Land use in riparian margins and stock to surface water bodies and the CMA, Issue 5

¹¹ S42A Report: Land use in riparian margins and stock to surface water bodies and the CMA, Issue 5

- (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, mana whenua¹² 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 trading 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 drains and 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, ~~in collaboration with industry, other relevant organisations, and stakeholders~~ to support the implementation of Rule R121: Maintenance of drains and highly modified rivers or streams and R122: Removing vegetation.

The aim of this programme is to:

- (a) assist landowners and drain maintenance contractors¹³ to identify the different types of waterways on their a propertyies (drains / highly modified rivers or streams and ~~natural~~ unmodified rivers or streams), and be aware of their ecological values, and
- (b) reduce the extent and frequency of maintenance activities associated with drains and highly modified rivers or streams, including by implementing

¹² S42A Report: Water quality, Issue 11.1

¹³ RoR Report: Beds of lakes and rivers, issue 4.

- 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 **drains** and **highly modified rivers or streams**.¹⁴

Method M14A: Mapping of drains and highly modified rivers and streams

Wellington Regional Council will develop a map layer that identifies **drains** and **highly modified rivers or streams** to assist with the implementation of Rules R121 and R122¹⁵ by 30 June 2019.¹⁶

6.6 Stormwater

Method M15: Regional stormwater working group



Wellington Regional Council will work with city and district councils and with **mana whenua**¹⁷ in a regional stormwater working group to:

- (a) 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
- (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.

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**¹⁸ 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

¹⁴ S42A Report: Beds of lakes and rivers, Issue 1

¹⁵ S42A Report: Beds of lakes and rivers, Issue 1

¹⁶ RoR Report: Beds of lakes and rivers, issue 4.

¹⁷ S42A Report: Stormwater, Issue 3.5

¹⁸ S42A Report: Discharges to Land, issue 29

- (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 to¹⁹:

- (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) ~~promoting~~ exploring²⁰ 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.

¹⁹ S42A Report: Water allocation, Issue 5

²⁰ S42A Report: Water allocation, Issue 5

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,²¹ and
- (c) develop and implement **Wetland Restoration Management Plans** for in partnership with landowners and **outstanding natural** wetlands and ~~significant~~ significant²² ~~other 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 and,²³ territorial local authorities, Iwi and other parties as appropriate to:

- (a) identify sites in the coastal marine area or coastal environment 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.²⁴

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,²⁵ and

²¹ RoR Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, issue 3.

²² Supplementary RoR: Wetlands and Biodiversity


²³ RoR Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, issue 3.

²⁴ S42A Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, Issue 6.3

²⁵ RoR Report: Wetlands and Biodiversity, issue 4.

- (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 areas.](#)

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 ²⁶

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 to modify or destroy of²⁷ 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 high natural character 


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

²⁶ S42A report: Significant Historical Heritage Values: issue 7.


²⁷ RoR Report: Significant Historical Heritage.

- (a) identify outstanding natural features and landscapes within the region, and
- (b) identify areas with outstanding/high natural character in the coastal environment, and
- (c) produce a regional list of these features, landscapes and areas by 2017 for inclusion in the Plan by plan change or variation.

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 ~~H1~~ **H2**²⁸.

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.

²⁸ S42A Report: Water quality, Issue 4.6