

3 Objectives

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¹ S42A: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Clause 16(2)

3.1 Ki uta ki tai: mountains to the sea

Objective O1



Air, land, fresh water bodies and the coastal environment² are managed as integrated and connected resources; **ki uta ki tai** – mountains to the sea.

Objective O2



The importance and contribution of land and water to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the community are recognised.

Objective O3



Mauri is sustained and enhanced, particularly the **mauri** of fresh and coastal waters.

Objective O4



The intrinsic values of ~~aquatic~~ freshwater and marine ecosystems are recognised and the life supporting capacity of water and ecosystems are safeguarded~~are recognised~~.³

Objective O5



Fresh water bodies and the coastal marine area, as a minimum, are managed to:

- (a) safeguard **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, and
- (b) provide for contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, and
- (c) in the case of fresh water, provide for the **health needs of people**.

3.2 Beneficial use and development

Objective O6

Sufficient water of a suitable quality is available for the **health needs of people**.

Objective O7

Fresh water is available in quantities and is of a suitable quality for the reasonable needs of **livestock**.

Objective O8

The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of taking and using water are recognised and provided for within the Plan's allocation framework.

Objective O9



The recreational values of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** are maintained and enhanced.

Objective O10



Public access to and along the coastal marine area and rivers and lakes is maintained and enhanced.

² s42A: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Issue 4.1

³ s42A: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Issue 4.2

Objective O11



Opportunities for **Māori customary use** of the coastal marine area, rivers and lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** for cultural purposes are recognised, maintained and improved.

Objective O12



The social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of **regionally significant infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** are recognised.

Objective O13



The use and ongoing operation of **regionally significant infrastructure** and **renewable energy generation activities** in the coastal marine area are protected from new incompatible use and development occurring under, over, or adjacent to the infrastructure or activity.

3.3 Māori relationships

Objective O14



Māori relationships with air, land and water are recognised, maintained and improved.

Objective O15



Kaitiakitanga is recognised and **mana whenua** actively participate in planning and decision-making in relation to the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources⁴.

Objective O16



The relationship of **mana whenua** with **Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa** is recognised and provided for.

3.4 Natural character, form and function

Objective O17



The natural character of the coastal marine area, rivers, lakes and their margins and **natural wetlands** is preserved and protected from inappropriate use and development.

Objective O18



The ecological, recreational, **mana whenua**, and amenity values of estuaries including their sensitivity as **low energy receiving environments** are recognised, and their health and function is restored over time.

Objective O19



The interference from use and development on **natural processes** is minimised.

⁴ s42A: Overall policy framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Issue 5.3

3.4b Natural hazards⁵

Objective O20



The **risk, residual risk**, and adverse effects from natural hazards and climate change on people, the community and infrastructure are acceptable.

Objective O21



Inappropriate use and development in **high hazard areas** is avoided.

Objective O22



Hard engineering mitigation and protection methods are only used as a last practicable option.

3.5 Water quality

Objective O23



The quality of water in the region's rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands**, groundwater and the coastal marine area is maintained or improved.

Objective O24



Rivers, lakes, **natural wetlands** and coastal water are suitable for contact recreation and **Māori customary use**, including by:

- (a) maintaining water quality, or
- (b) improving water quality in:
 - (i) **significant contact recreation fresh water bodies** to meet, as a minimum, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.1, and
 - (ii) coastal water to meet, as a minimum, the primary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.3, and
 - (iii) all other rivers and lakes and **natural wetlands** to meet, as a minimum, the secondary contact recreation objectives in Table 3.2.

Contact recreation and Māori customary use objectives

Water body type	<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100mL 95 th percentile ⁶	Cyanobacteria		Māori customary use	Toxicants and irritants
		Planktonic ⁷	Benthic		
Rivers	≤ 540 at all flows below 3x median flow, September to April inclusive		Low risk of health effects from exposure	Fresh water is safe for primary contact and supports Māori customary use	Concentrations of toxicants or irritants do not pose a threat to water users

⁵ S42A: Overall framework of the proposed Plan – Part B, Clause 16(2)

⁶ Derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years

⁷ 80th percentile derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of three years data

Table 3.1 Primary contact recreation in significant contact recreation freshwater bodies					
Water body type	<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100mL 95 th percentile ⁶	Cyanobacteria		Māori customary use	Toxicants and irritants
		Planktonic ⁷	Benthic		
Lakes	≤ 540 September to April inclusive	≤ 1.8mm ³ /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR ≤ 10mm ³ /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria			

Table 3.2 Secondary contact with water in freshwater bodies				
Water body type	<i>E. coli</i> cfu/100mL median ⁸	Cyanobacteria		
		Planktonic ²	Benthic	
Rivers	≤ 1,000			Low risk of health effects from exposure
Lakes		≤ 1.8mm ³ /L biovolume equivalent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria OR ≤ 10mm ³ /L total biovolume of all cyanobacteria		

⁸ Based on a minimum of 12 data points collected over three years

Table 3.3 Contact recreation in coastal water			
Coastal water type	Pathogens Indicator bacteria/100mL 95 th percentile ⁹	Māori customary use	Shellfish quality
Estuaries ¹⁰	≤ 540 <i>E. coli</i>	Coastal water is safe for primary contact and supports Māori customary use	Concentrations of contaminants, including pathogens, are sufficiently low for shellfish to be safe to collect and consume where appropriate
Open coast and harbours ¹¹	≤ 500 enterococci		

3.6 Biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai

Objective O25



To safeguard **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** in fresh water bodies and coastal marine area:

- (a) water quality, flows, water levels and aquatic and coastal habitats are managed to maintain **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai**, and
- (b) **restoration** of **aquatic ecosystem health** and **mahinga kai** is encouraged, and
- (c) where an objective in Tables 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 or 3.8 is not met, a fresh water body or coastal marine area is improved over time to meet that objective.

Note

Where the relevant **whaitua** sections of the Plan contain an objective on the same subject matter as Objective O25 (water quality, biological and habitat outcomes), the more specific **whaitua** objective will take precedence.

⁹ Derived using the Hazen method from a minimum of 30 data points collected over three years

¹⁰ Excludes Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and includes Lake Onoke. Estuaries, including river mouth estuaries, should be treated as an estuary when they are dominated by saline water, in which case Table 3.3 applies, and as rivers when they are dominated by fresh water, in which case Table 3.1 or 3.2 applies.

¹¹ Includes Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour. Excludes the Lambton Harbour Area within the Commercial Port delineated in Map 32.

Aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai objectives

Table 3.4 Rivers and streams								
River class ¹²		Macrophytes	Periphyton ¹³ mg/m ² chlorophyll a		Invertebrates ¹⁴ Macroinvertebrate Community Index		Fish	Mahinga kai species
			All rivers	Significant rivers ¹⁵	All rivers	Significant rivers ¹⁶		
1	Steep, hard sedimentary	Indigenous macrophyte communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	≤ 50	≤ 50	≥ 120	≥ 130	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area
2	Mid-gradient, coastal and hard sedimentary		≤ 120	≤ 50	≥ 105	≥ 130		
3	Mid-gradient, soft sedimentary		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	≥ 105	≥ 130		
4	Lowland, large, draining ranges		≤ 120	≤ 50	≥ 110	≥ 130		
5	Lowland, large, draining plains and eastern Wairarapa		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	≥ 100	≥ 120		
6	Lowland, small		≤ 120*	≤ 50*	≥ 100	≥ 120		

¹² Shown on Maps 21a to 21e.

¹³ The periphyton objectives for River classes 3,5 and 6 marked with an asterisk (*) shall not be exceeded by more than 17% of samples; for all other River classes, to be exceeded by no more than 8% of samples based on a minimum of three years of monthly sampling.

¹⁴ Rolling median based on a minimum of three years of annual samples collected during summer or autumn.

^{15, 11} Rivers or streams with high macroinvertebrate community health, identified in column 2 of Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes).

Table 3.5 Lakes					
Lake type	Macrophytes	Phytoplankton	Fish	Mahinga kai species	Nutrients
All lakes ¹⁷	Submerged and emergent macrophyte communities are resilient and occupy at least one third of the lake bed that is naturally available for macrophytes, and are dominated by native species	Phytoplankton communities are balanced and there is a low frequency of nuisance blooms	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate for the area	Total nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations do not cause an imbalance in aquatic plant, invertebrate or fish communities

Table 3.6 Groundwater			
Groundwater type	Nitrate	Quantity	Saltwater intrusion
Directly connected to surface water	Nitrate concentrations do not cause unacceptable effects on groundwater-dependent ecosystems or on aquatic plants, invertebrate or fish communities in connected surface water bodies	The quantity of water is maintained to safeguard healthy groundwater-dependent ecosystems	The boundary between salt and fresh groundwater does not migrate between fresh water and salt water aquifers
Not directly connected to surface water	Nitrate concentrations do not cause unacceptable effects on stygofauna communities or other groundwater ecosystems		

¹⁷ Except for intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLs), such as Lake Onoke. These should be treated as a lake when they are in a closed state. When open to the coast, they should be managed as an estuary, in which case Table 3.8 applies.

Table 3.7 Natural wetlands					
Wetland type	Plants	Fish	Mahinga kai species	Nutrient status	Hydrology
Bog	Indigenous plant communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in, or are migrating through, the wetland and are in quantities, size and of a quality that is appropriate to the area	Low or very low	Water table depth and hydrologic regime is appropriate to the wetland type
Fen				Low to moderate	
Swamp				Moderate to high	
Marsh				Moderate to high	

Table 3.8 Coastal waters							
Coastal water type	Macroalgae	Seagrass and saltmarsh	Invertebrates	Mahinga kai species	Fish	Sedimentation rate	Mud content
Open coast	The algae community is balanced with a low frequency of nuisance blooms	NA	Invertebrate communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	Mahinga kai species, including taonga species, are present in quantities, sizes and of a quality that is appropriate for the area	NA		
Estuaries and harbours ¹⁸		Seagrass, saltmarsh and brackish water submerged macrophytes are resilient and diverse and their cover is sufficient to support invertebrate and fish communities			Indigenous fish communities are resilient and their structure, composition and diversity are balanced	The sedimentation rate is within an acceptable range of that expected under natural conditions	The mud content and areal extent of soft mud habitats is within a range of that found under natural conditions

¹⁸ Intermittently closed and open lakes or lagoons (ICOLLs), such as Lake Onoke, should be treated as an estuary when they are in an open state. When closed to the coast, they should be managed as a lake, in which case Table 3.2 applies.

Objective O26



The availability of **mahinga kai** species to support Māori customary harvest is increased, in quantity, quality and diversity.

Objective O27



Vegetated riparian margins are established, ~~and maintained~~, or restored to enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, mahinga kai and indigenous biodiversity of rivers, lakes, wetlands and the coastal marine area.¹⁹

Objective O28



The extent of **natural wetlands** is maintained or increased and their condition is restored.

Objective O29



Use and development provides for the passage of fish and koura, and the passage of indigenous fish and koura is restored.

Objective O30

The habitat of trout identified in Schedule I (trout habitat) is maintained and improved.

3.7 Sites with significant values

Objective O31

Outstanding water bodies and their significant values are protected.

Objective O32



Outstanding natural features and landscapes are protected from inappropriate use and development.

Objective O33



Sites with significant **mana whenua** values are protected and restored.

Objective O34



Significant historic heritage values are protected from inappropriate modification, use and development.

Objective O35



Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values are protected and restored.

Objective O36




Significant geological features in the coastal marine area are protected.

Objective O37





Significant surf breaks are protected from inappropriate use and development.


¹⁹ S42A report: Land use in riparian margins and stock access to surface water bodies and the CMA, Issue 2.1

Objective O38 
Identified special amenity landscape values are maintained or enhanced.


3.8 Air

Objective O39 
Ambient air quality is maintained or improved to the acceptable category or better in Schedule L1 (ambient air).

Objective O40 
Human health, **property**, and the environment are protected from the adverse effects of **point source discharges** of air pollutants.

Objective O41 
The adverse effects of odour, smoke and dust on amenity values and people's well-being are reduced.


3.9 Soil


Objective O42 
Soils are healthy, ~~and productive, retain a range of uses~~²⁰; and accelerated soil erosion is reduced.

are healthy and productive, and accelerated soil erosion is reduced.


Objective O43 
Contaminated land is managed to protect human health and the environment.

3.10 Land use

Objective O44 
~~The adverse effects on soil and water from land use activities are minimised~~
Land use activities, including stock access to a **surface water body** or the coastal marine area, maintain or enhance soil conservation and contribute to maintaining and improving water quality and the health of aquatic ecosystems²¹.

~~Objective O45 
The adverse effects of **livestock** access on **surface water bodies** are reduced.~~²²

3.11 Discharges

Objective O46 
Discharges to land are managed to reduce the runoff or leaching of contaminants to water.

Objective O47 
The amount of sediment-laden runoff entering water is reduced.

²⁰ S42A report: Soil conservation, Issue 2.1

²¹ S42A report: Land use in riparian margins and stock access to surface water bodies and the CMA, Issue 2.2

²² S42A report: Land use in riparian margins and stock access to surface water bodies and the CMA, Issue 2.3

Objective O48



Stormwater networks and urban land uses are managed so that the adverse quality and quantity effects of discharges from the networks are improved over time.

Objective O49



Discharges of **wastewater** to land are promoted over discharges to fresh water and coastal water.

Objective O50

Discharges of **wastewater** to fresh water are progressively reduced.

Objective O51



The discharge of **hazardous substances** is managed to protect human health, **property** and the environment.

3.12 Water allocation

Objective O52

The efficiency of allocation and use of water is improved and maximised through time, including by means of:

- (a) efficient infrastructure, and
- (b) **good management practice**, including irrigation, domestic municipal and industry practices, and
- (c) maximising reuse, recovery and recycling of water and contaminants, and
- (d) enabling water to be transferred between users, and
- (e) enabling water storage outside river beds.

3.13 Coastal management

Objective O53



Use and development in the coastal marine area has a **functional need** or **operational requirement** to be located there.

Objective O54



Use and development makes efficient use of any occupied space in the coastal marine area.

Objective O55



The need for public open space in the coastal marine area is recognised.

Objective O56



New development in the coastal marine area is of a scale, density and design that is compatible with its location in the coastal environment.

Objective O57



Use and development is appropriate in the **Lambton Harbour Area** when it is compatible with its surroundings and the Central Area of Wellington City.

Objective O58



Noise, including underwater noise, from activities in the coastal marine area is managed to maintain the health and well-being of marine fauna, and the health and amenity value of users of the coastal marine area.

Objective O59



The efficient and safe passage of vessels and aircraft that support the movement of people, goods and services is provided for in the coastal marine area.