

Report 11.169
Date 12 April 2011
File E/11/05/04

Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management
Author Terry Parminter, Policy Advisor, Rachel Pawson,
Policy Advisor, Ian Gunn, Principal Advisor

Analysis of community engagement and next steps

1. Purpose

This paper summarises the results from the first stages of the Engagement and Communication Plan process completed in 2010. It follows on from the interim report provided to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee in February. It also provides an update on the next phases of engagement and communication with partner iwi, stakeholders, and the public.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Between July and October 2010, 19 community workshops were held across the Wellington region. There were 16 public workshops, one workshop for professional organisations working with natural resource management and two workshops at Owhiro School.

Over the same time period as the workshops were being held, an on-line survey was available for any members of the public to participate in electronically.

As well as the open public meetings there were four separate meetings with mana whenua iwi and three meetings with territorial authorities (during July and October 2010). Overall, more than 1400 people have been involved.

A verbatim report of the results from the 2010 consultation was made available to the public in December 2010. The report was intended to provide an opportunity for the public to compare the results of the workshop they attended with others in the region. No analysis of the results was included in that report.

A final report has now been prepared analysing the 2010 results and describing how the results relate to our development of the proposed regional plan. This report is entitled: “Your view about our environment: public engagement (2010) for the natural resource regional plan review for the Wellington Region”. It can be found at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/committee-meetings-calendar/detail/6884>, and a hard copy is also available in the Councillor’s lounge.

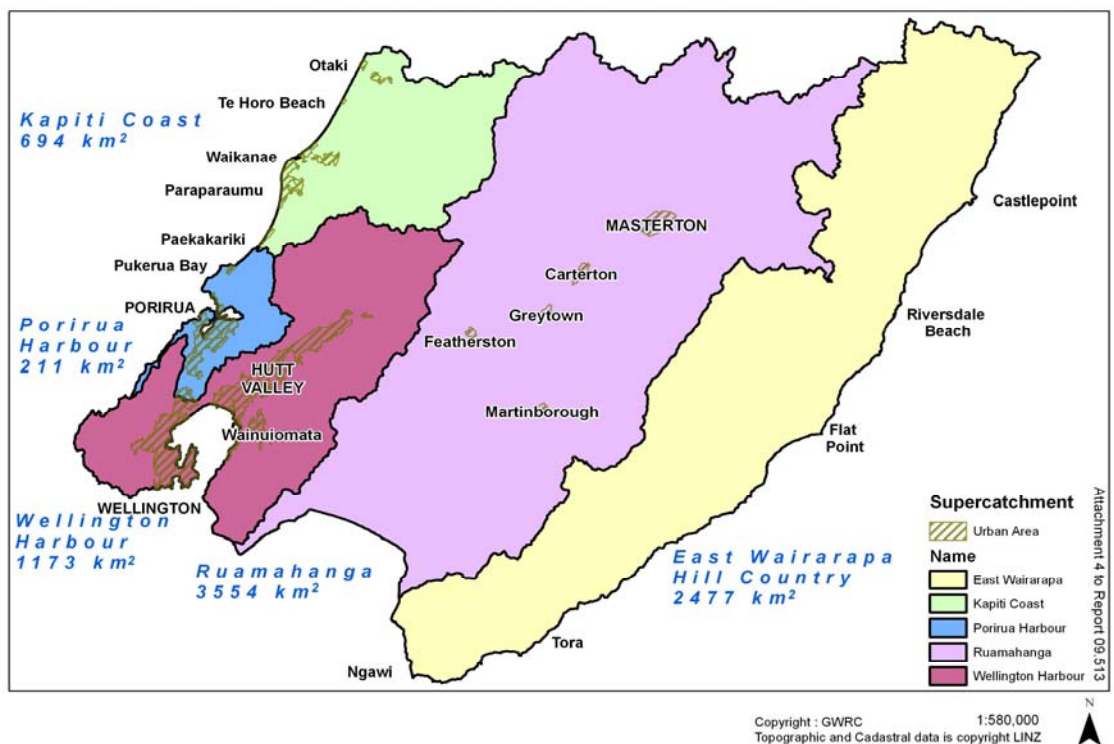
4. Summary of the report

4.1 Catchment analyses

In the report, six regional catchments are described and their results compared. The six catchments are based upon the significantly different receiving environments for waterways in the region (Figure 1).

- Eastern Wairarapa with waterways linked to the Pacific Coast. The results for Martinborough and Tinui were combined to represent this catchment.
- Ruamahanga Catchment with waterways linked to Wairarapa Moana and Lake Onoke. The results from the workshop held in Masterton represent this catchment.

Figure 1: Principal catchments of the Greater Wellington region



- Northern Wellington Harbour and Southern Wellington Harbour with waterways linked to Wellington Harbour and Cook Strait. Northern Wellington Harbour includes results from the workshops in Upper Hutt,

Lower Hutt and Wainuiomata. Southern Wellington Harbour includes workshops in Rongotai, Wellington central, Berhampore, and Karori.

- Porirua Harbour and its associated waterways. This contains results from eastern Porirua and Johnsonville.
- Western Coast, has waterways linked to it along the Kapiti coastline. This included results from Otaki, Paraparaumu and Paekakariki.

4.2 Regional priorities

The public engagement process highlighted the importance to participants in all the catchments of policies to address water quality, biodiversity and soils, see **Attachment 1**. People in the workshop groups stated things like:

“When kids can’t safely swim in our rivers, we have a big problem”; “Want native biological diversity in abundance and natural habitats preserved”; “Healthy soils promote healthy food production and habitat for biodiversity”

While these policy themes are common across catchments, how people wanted them addressed did differ between catchments. Eastern Wairarapa and Ruamahanga preferred the use of financial incentives to encourage practice changes. People on the Western Coast, Porirua and Southern Wellington Harbour preferred education policy methods. The Northern Wellington Harbour preferred to emphasis the use of resource consents in policy instruments.

4.3 Catchment unique priorities

4.3.1 Water quality

Improving water quality for human use and biodiversity outcomes was particularly emphasised by people in the Ruamahanga Catchment and the Western Coast who wanted more encouragement of improved riparian management. They also tended to want a more balanced approach taken with flood control works.

4.3.2 Air quality

Maintaining air quality was distinctively important to people in the Northern and Southern Wellington Harbour.

4.3.3 Stormwater

People in the Southern Wellington Harbour workshops gave a lot of relative emphasis to improved stormwater systems.

4.3.4 Coast, marine and estuaries

Workshops on the Western Coast and Porirua gave a lot of emphasis to coastal, marine and estuarine policies.

4.4 Mana whenua iwi

The mana whenua iwi that have been involved to date have supported managing natural resource systems to strengthen their ecological integrity. They had similar priority themes to the other community groups. In addition, mana whenua iwi supported marae-based programmes for natural resource education and having protocols recognised for harvesting indigenous biological material from public areas, e.g. harakeke.

4.5 Resource management professionals

In the professional's workshop using natural resources efficiently for economic development was emphasised along with minimising resource consenting costs and requirements. The professionals were supportive of increased resource monitoring by Greater Wellington.

4.6 School children

The school children focussed on the restoration of natural resources in catchments and the potential contribution of clean-green technologies.

The 2010 engagement process has identified natural resource issues important to communities in the Wellington region. The next step is to examine these through science and Māoritanga perspectives to confirm which ones will be addressed in the proposed regional plan. These will be formalised in discussions with stakeholders and brought back to Te Upoko Taiao in September 2011.

5. Engagement – next steps

The next round of public engagement through 2011 will involve building on our identification of priority issues to establish policy objectives.

- Meeting with iwi authorities in the region
- Meeting with key stakeholders from institutions or representative organisations likely to use the plan as a normal part of their role in the economy, and
- Open workshops with the wider community, including interested individuals and people from non-governmental organisations.

5.1 Involving iwi authorities

It is recommended that three broad 'streams' of work to involve Iwi authorities in the plan development process progress in parallel, as outlined below.

Please note that staff intend to meet with iwi representatives to discuss and agree an overall process for engagement with individual Iwi authorities. At this time, the following process has not yet been discussed with those authorities.

- Iwi technical reference group - to enable iwi authorities, as a group, to be involved in developing objectives, policy options and preferred policy options, as far as is possible in a collective way.
- Input to discrete project work - there are a number of policies in the RPS that require the identification of tangata whenua values when developing provisions in the regional plan (for example, in the areas of landscape, historic heritage and indigenous ecosystems). These will need to be treated as discrete projects, both in terms of input from iwi and from a geographical perspective.
- Topic/catchment based process - this part of the process is designed to set out what policy advisors or workgroups must consider as part of the process of developing the regional plan provisions for the topic (e.g. water, coastal, air) or catchment they are considering.

During the process of development of the regional policy statement, iwi identified that all of the significant resource management issues were significant resource management issues for Māori. It therefore follows that iwi are likely to have an interest in most or all chapters/provisions of the regional plan.

5.2 Stakeholder meetings

Initially, three workshops are planned with key stakeholder groups identified in **Attachment 2**. Each meeting will cover themes and issues from the plan review that the invited key stakeholder organisations are likely to be particularly affected by.

The topics for the stakeholder meetings (identified through the 2010 engagement process) are:

- Surface and ground water management interactions - including water allocation, water storage and the interactions between rural land-use practices and water quality. This meeting is being held in the Wairarapa.
- Stormwater management - including sedimentation and the interactions between urban land-use practices and water quality. This meeting is being held in Wellington City.
- Coastal management and the management of hazards. This meeting will be held at Kapiti Coast.

The stakeholder meetings will begin in June 2011 and be ongoing. The public workshops are planned for October 2011.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Endorses the engagement approach outlined.***

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Terry Parminter
Policy Advisor

Rachel Pawson
Policy Advisor

Ian Gun
Principal Advisor

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Jonathan Streat
Manager Environmental
Policy

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management
Group

Attachment 1: Natural resource priorities in the Wellington Region

Attachment 2: Key stakeholder organisations