

**Report** 13.660  
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**Committee** Council  
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## **Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee establishment process**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the process and timeline for establishing the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (RWC). The RWC is the first of five Whaitua committees to be established over the coming years, (see Figure 1).

### **2. The decision-making process and significance**

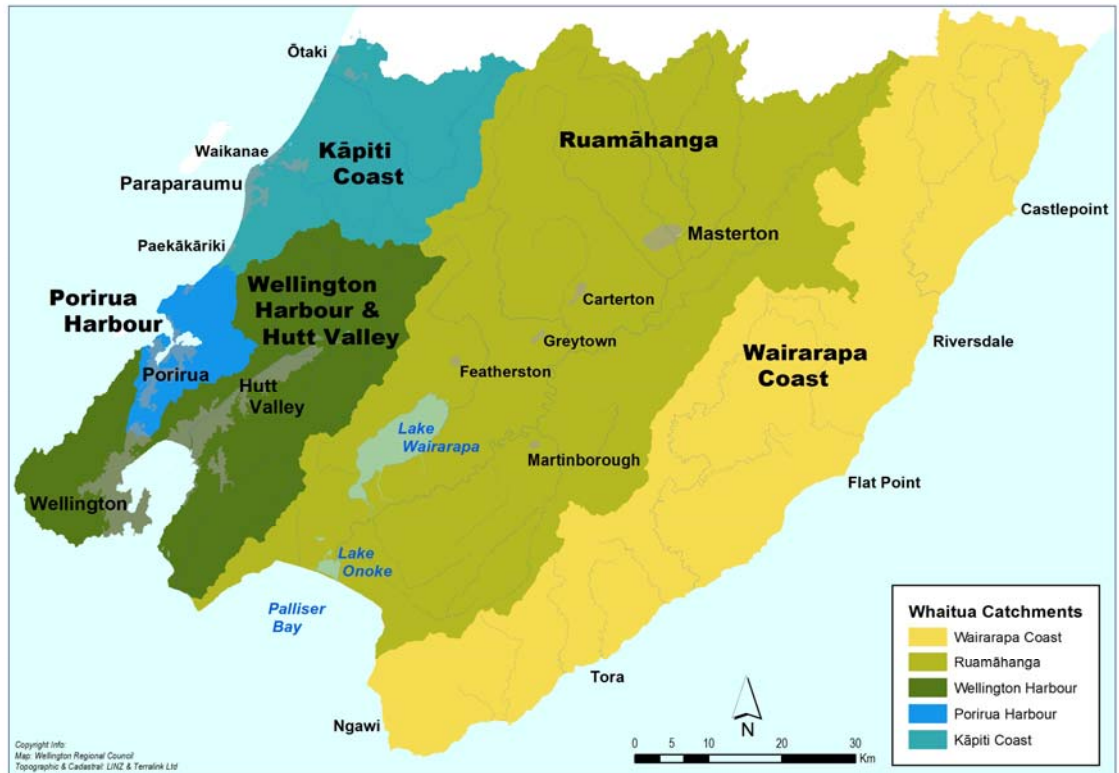
No decision is being sought in this report.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1 What is the purpose of establishing Whaitua committees?**

As part of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee’s programme, an option for implementing the National Policy Statement was adopted by Council at the meeting of 12 December 2012.

This has resulted in two separate, although linked, work streams. The first involves the review of the Regional Plan; see accompanying Council report No.13.659. The second is the Whaitua establishment and implementation programme, which Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) will use to implement the NPS for Freshwater (NPSFW). Each Whaitua committee will use a collaborative model to develop recommendations for Council on the implementing the NPSFW within their catchment area. It is also envisaged that each Whaitua committee will, over time, act as a conduit for the better integration of activities aimed at managing land and water resources within their catchment area.



**Figure 1: Map of Whaitua catchments**

Greater Wellington Regional Council, in partnership with tangata whenua, will develop and run the Whaitua process in each catchment area. In their role of mana whenua, tangata whenua will determine appropriate tangata whenua representation and how the Whaitua will be supported in kawa, tikanga and matauranga iwi (process, practice and traditional knowledge).

The principles that guide Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee in the review of the regional plan will also form the basis of guiding principles to aid the Whaitua committees in their decision-making. These principles are:

- Ki uta Ki tai (interconnectedness) – the recognition that natural and physical resources are interconnected, reliant on one another and need to be managed as a whole
- Wairuatanga (identity) – a recognition of connections between natural processes and human cultures
- Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) – the understanding that these all have a role as guardians of the natural environment
- Tō mātou whakapono (judgement based on knowledge) – understanding that our actions and decisions need to be considered and based on the best available information, and

- Mahitahi (partnership) – that in good faith Greater Wellington Regional Council, iwi and other sectors of the community work collaboratively in the development and implementation of the second generation regional plan.

### **3.2 What is the role of the Whaitua committees?**

Whaitua committees will make recommendations to Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) report. This report will contain strategies and actions which will form a programme of work to implement the NPSFW in the catchment area of the Whaitua committee. They may include recommendations for both statutory and non-statutory actions/methods.

Some of a Whaitua committee’s key tasks will include, but are not limited to:

- Setting a strategic vision for the Whaitua
- Reviewing regional values and prioritise these to reflect community values in the Whaitua area
- Setting objectives and methods for achieving these
- Setting new and/or review existing water quality and quantity limits
- Putting forward methods to improve the efficiency of the water allocation framework over time, and
- Recommending methods to achieve water quantity and water quality limits and targets within the Whaitua boundary.

Once the WIP is completed, the Whaitua committee will recommend the WIP to Council, including any regulatory methods proposed within the WIP. These methods will be referred to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee for incorporation into the Regional Plan, through a plan change process. Non-regulatory recommendations will also be developed further within Greater Wellington Regional Council and in conjunction with relevant external organisations. The Whaitua committee may also recommend that any non-regulatory proposals within the WIP be considered in the development of the next Long Term Plan.

### **3.3 Suggestion of who will be on a Whaitua committee?**

Each Whaitua committee will be appointed by Greater Wellington Regional Council. The membership details of each of the five Whaitua will be different and will be reflected in their individual terms of reference. A generic model of the type of membership is listed below for information:

- One elected and one appointed member of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee representing the interest of Greater Wellington Regional Council and acting as the voice of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee of the Whaitua committee

- One member nominated from each iwi authority whose rohe falls entirely or partly within the Whaitua boundary, representing the interest of that Tangata Whenua group
- One member nominated by each Territorial Authority operating within the Whaitua boundary, who shall be an elected member of that territorial authority
- Approximately seven members from the community with a range of backgrounds and interests related to land and water management within the community. Council may approve additional members if it determines it necessary.

To be eligible to be considered for appointment to a Whaitua committee, a community nominee must either live in, or be able to demonstrate a close connection with, the Whaitua.

Members of a Whaitua committee should also be skilled and confident in communicating ideas. The Whaitua process is an open process and committee members be expected to relay information back and forth between their Whaitua committee and members of the community and stakeholder groups.

Each member must also be:

- Capable of dealing with the technical, political and procedural work of the committee
- Able to work collaboratively and take a wider view of land and water management than any particular interest they bring
- Connected with a community with an interest in the management of the Whaitua's land and water resources and be able to act as a conduit between his community of interest and the Whaitua
- Able to give effect to the integration between existing groups and the work of the Whaitua committee

A Whaitua committee is a community working group tasked with developing catchment specific water quantity and quality limits. Their function is not to debate national level direction, nor to provide a platform to represent a particular industry's interests. For this reason, national corporation head office staff will not be the proposed committee members. Instead, members of the local community (who may or may not belong to, or have interests that align with, national organisations) with relevant skills will be sought.

### **3.4 Duration of a Whaitua committee**

Each Whaitua committee shall exist for the duration of the development and completion of a WIP (Whaitua Implementation programme) document, and shall cease to exist when Council has made decisions on regulatory proposals within the WIP. Should any individual Whaitua process be unable to achieve

its tasks or become dysfunctional Greater Wellington Regional Council will need to establish a separate process to ensure it complies with the NPSFW.

### **3.5 Whaitua committee appointment process**

Greater Wellington Regional Council has a policy for the appointment of members to groups of a similar nature to Whaitua committees (Appendix A). It is proposed that this policy be followed.

In accordance with this policy, the process of appointment of members to each Whaitua committee will follow these steps:

- Competencies for the role identified
- Advertising for potential candidates
- Potential candidates generated
- Evaluation of candidates, and shortlist identified, by nominations evaluation group
- Shortlisted candidates interviewed by nominations evaluation group
- Whaitua committee member nominations presented to Council for approval

### **3.6 Nominations evaluation group**

The nominations evaluation group could include:

- One elected and one appointed member of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee
- General Manager responsible for the establishment and operation of the Whaitua committee
- A facilitator

### **3.7 Establishment timeframe for the first Whaitua committee: Ruamāhanga**

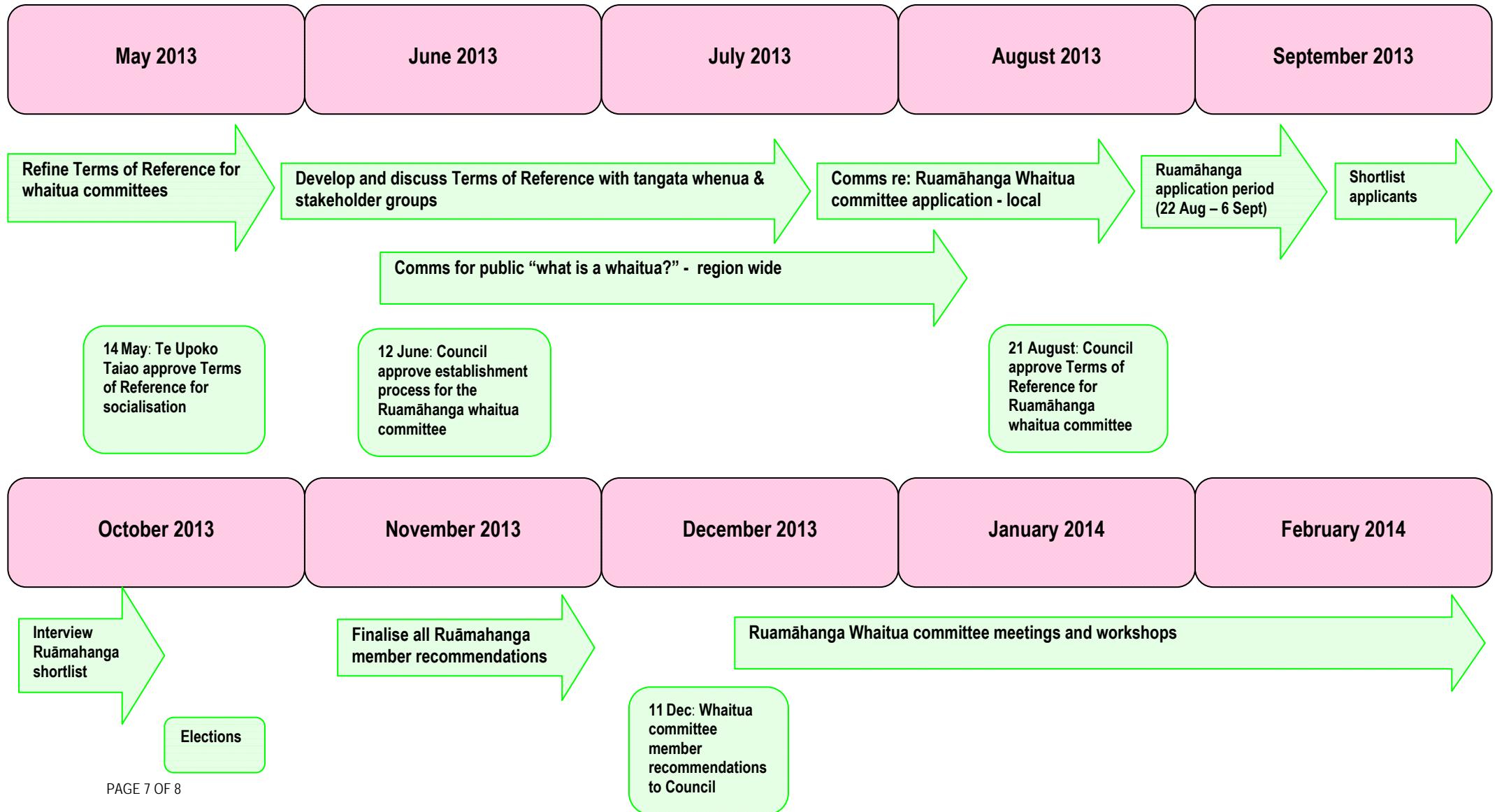
The following steps will need to be followed in order to establish the Ruamāhanga Whaitua committee:

- Develop and discuss draft Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee's Terms of Reference
- Internal and external communications explaining what a Whaitua committee is and what it will do (region wide)
- Council approve Terms of Reference for the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee

- Communications for upcoming Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee application period (local)
- Publically advertise for Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee membership applications (local)
- Shortlist the applications
- Interview shortlist
- Finalise member recommendations
- Council approve Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee member recommendations

An indicative timeline of these steps can be seen on the following page.

## Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee: establishment timeframe



#### **4. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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