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Committee Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee
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Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework and Kaitiaki Monitoring and information strategies (method 2 PNRP)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Re-visit the Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework development; and
- Update the Committee with the progress on Method 2 of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP).

2. Background

Our mana whenua partners first identified the need for cultural health monitoring in the development of the Regional Monitoring Plan (2001). The Regional Policy Statement (2007) reconfirmed the need for a managed approach to provide for mana whenua values. It identified priority resource management issues for the region's iwi. These are:

1. Lack of involvement in resource management decision-making.
2. Loss of mauri, particularly in relation to fresh and coastal waters.
3. Quality, quantity and access to mahinga kai, and natural resources used for customary purposes.
4. Degradation and destruction of spiritual and cultural historic heritage values.

In agreement with Ara Tahi, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) was determined to actively engage iwi in resource management planning processes.

3. The Drivers for the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework

The project need is driven by national, regional and catchment community (whaitua process) drivers. Section 6 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) recognises Māori customary and environmental relationships as matters of national importance. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPS-FM) directs Councils to work with iwi to identify their values and interests in fresh water and to ensure that they are reflected in freshwater management and decision-making. The Resource Management Amendment Bill (2015) has put forward suggested changes that, if passed into legislation, may require Councils to specify their relationship with iwi through mana whakahono and iwi participation arrangements.

In the Wellington Region, Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Plan Committee (the Committee) has addressed the decision-making requirement of the NPS-FM through parity of direct iwi participation on the Committee and through objectives, policies, methods and schedules in the PNRP. In particular, PNRP Objective O5 which includes Māori values as key determinants for all regional water quality. In this new paradigm GWRC takes responsibility for managing and reporting on the most important water values identified by iwi (including mahinga kai and mauri). Objective 5 takes the Wellington Region's long standing governance and planning partnership into an operative space. Implementation and integration of values and practice models will require a no sacred cows approach to partnership and the investment of new resources into information gathering and staff development.

Other important drivers include:

- The needs of whaitua committees who will complete the regional plan process through the establishment of catchment scale water quality and quantity limits, and management strategies (whaitua implementation programmes or WIPs) to achieve them.
- Significant resource consents (e.g. flood protection consent renewals, harbour dredging, national roads of significance, airport extension, storm-water consents).
- Environmental Science department (ESci) science strategy goal 4 of iwi partnership in designing and implementing regional monitoring programmes and post settlement co-management agreements with iwi on significant water bodies e.g. Wairarapa Moana and Te Awarua-o-Porirua.

4. **Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework: Project Approach**

There are two components to Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework. These are:

1. Method 2 (M2) PNRP Kaitiaki Monitoring and Information Strategy

M2 establishes that the content and process for identification of mana whenua cultural values needs to be provided by mana whenua to ensure that the information has appropriate mandate and is fit for purpose. As this information becomes available GWRC will work with iwi to determine how best to include and support it within the regional monitoring strategy

2. The strategic regional approach necessary to support the integration of iwi specific monitoring strategies (M2) into regional monitoring processes.

These two components will be delivered in three phases that will include the following:

Phase 1: establishing information such as iwi values

- Iwi/hapu information will be gathered through engagement with iwi, whitua process and Collaborative Modelling Project (CMP).

Phase 2: developing a strategy for monitoring iwi values with iwi/hapu

- The information identified in phase one is applied to a strategy that enables the values, practices, species, places, timeframes and cultural determinants to be measured through local tikanga and kawa (policy and process).

Phase 3: developing the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework to manage integration across GWRC activities and provide ongoing support to council and iwi

- GWRC is capable of monitoring and reporting on mahinga kai and Māori customary use
- Identify roles for hapū, iwi and GWRC in implementation
- Local kaitiaki monitoring is supported
- Iwi are contributing better cultural information to GWRC process (i.e. consents).

In order to effectively design a framework/strategy that benefits both iwi and GWRC it is necessary to move to a co-design model. Te Upoko Taiao will provide a regional perspective that will be essential to this process.

The project approach is based on the following key assumptions:

- GWRC has a responsibility to manage fresh and coastal waters for mahinga kai and Māori customary use;
- Individual iwi as mana whenua will determine and describe priorities for monitoring (what and where) in a monitoring strategy;
- Individual iwi will work with GWRC to determine when and how monitoring will be undertaken and by whom; and
- GWRC will develop a regional kaitiaki monitoring framework that enables monitoring of fresh and coastal waters for mahinga kai and Māori customary use, and is responsive to the needs of individual iwi monitoring strategies.

The Framework and strategies developed through this project will provide a platform for any future projects and programmes such as upcoming whaitua. This platform will also enable iwi to participate more effectively and to inform and benefit the whaitua process and collaborative modelling, as well as any future GWRC projects or programmes.

5. Progress to date

- December 2015 scoping group established to look at Cultural monitoring activities across GWRC.
- Presentation to Ara Tahī to seek direction on the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework project. Ara Tahī recommended that the project team needed to clearly identify the Councils' needs in order to effectively engage iwi.
- Scoping group identified the need for both iwi and GWRC to work in their own spaces in order to reach a shared space where there is co-development.
- Presentation to regional kaitiaki group to introduce the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework.
- A workshop with regional kaitiaki to determine priorities for the Regional Kaitiaki Monitoring Framework. The discussion highlighted the main areas of concern for iwi and the need for funding.
- Joint project with DoC and Ngāti Toa Rangatira to develop Marine Cultural Health indicators started (will help develop Ngāti Toa Rangatira monitoring framework).
- Started Environmental department internal stocktake of monitoring sites and how they relate to schedule B & C sites in the PNRP (sites and areas of significance to iwi).

- Presented and supported by Te Upoko Taiao.
- Funding attained from Flood Protection, Environmental Regulation and Environmental Science to start a pilot study with iwi.
- Co-development of pilot with Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai (contract now waiting for organisational contract to be signed)

6. Next Steps

The next step is to progress method 2 pilot with Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai. The pilot will provide two main outcomes:

1. Specific iwi information needed to feed into the regional framework (method 2 strategy).
2. A process that could be used with other iwi in the development of their strategies.

Running in parallel with the M2 pilot will be the continued progress of the regional perspective.

7. Consideration of Climate Change

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

7.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

The potential implications of climate change impacts on cultural values will be emphasised during phase 1 of the frameworks development and if appropriate, mechanisms for emissions monitoring and management considered during the subsequent phases.

7.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

The potential implications of climate change impacts on cultural values will be emphasised during phase 1 of the frameworks development. The Collaborative Modelling Projects conducted as part of the Whaitua processes include modelling for climate change impacts (as appropriate) and GWRC has also recently commissioned NIWA to downscale national climate change projections to the regional scale. These information sources ensure GWRC has access to the most up to date scientific information covering a wide range of

atmospheric climate variables at the highest resolution possible. The information will help Kaitiaki better understand how the climate is likely to change, and can inform the development of monitoring and adaptation strategies.

8. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

8.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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