

FULL PUBLIC NOTICE

Variation 1 to Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region - Submissions Open

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for the Wellington Region provides an overview of the resource management issues of the Wellington Region and sets out the policies and methods to achieve integrated resource management of the natural and physical resources of the whole region. Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) notified Proposed Change 1 to the RPS on 19 August 2022. The proposed changes were focused on implementing and supporting National direction and addressing issues related to freshwater, urban development, climate change, indigenous biodiversity in the Wellington Region.

Proposed Change 1 to the RPS is now at the stage of hearings. This is where the hearings panel(s) will hear any submitters or further submitters who wish to speak to their submission at a hearing. There are seven hearing streams focused on the different topics of the proposed change. More information on the hearings phase is available at [Greater Wellington Regional Council — RPS PC 1 Hearings](#)

Variation 1 to Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement inserts long-term freshwater visions giving effect to clause 3.3 of the National Policy Statement - Freshwater Management. The [Variation 1 to Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Policy Statement document](#) and associated [Section 32 report](#) showing all the changes being proposed and the reasons for the changes are available at www.gw.govt.nz/rps-pc1-variation-1-consultation.

Physical copies of these documents can also be viewed at:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council – Wellington Office, 100 Cuba Street, Te Aro, Wellington
- Greater Wellington Regional Council – Masterton Office, 34 Chapel Street, Masterton
- Public libraries throughout the Region

The process we'll follow

Greater Wellington is satisfied that Variation 1 to the RPS Proposed Change 1 is a 'freshwater planning instrument' and therefore subject to the freshwater planning process under both Section 80A and Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act (RMA). The Chief Freshwater Commissioner has determined acceptance of variation 1 to the proposed change 1 of the RPS. The Proposed Variation 1 document identifies the provisions that form part of the 'freshwater planning instrument' using a freshwater symbol as follows.

How to make a submission

The local authority in its own area and any person can make a submission on any of the proposed changes in Variation 1 to the RPS Proposed Change 1, either online or in written form. Making a submission ensures your views will be considered and allows you to participate in the Variation 1 to the RPS Proposed Change 1 process if you wish.

However, if you could gain an advantage in trade competition through your submission, then you may do so only if you are directly affected by an effect of the proposed change that:

- Adversely affects the environment, and
- Does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

If you wish to provide a submission, please use one of the methods below:

- The [online submission portal](#)
- The [online submission form](#) - please provide your submission in this template (Form 5) to regionalplan@gw.govt.nz or, post it to PO Box 11646, Manners St, Wellington 6142, ATT: Hearings Advisor.

The closing date for receiving submissions is 5.00pm Monday 13 November 2023.

Please note that under the RMA, all submissions and accompanying data must be made available for public inspection. In order to achieve this, Greater Wellington will upload all submissions and accompanying data onto its website above. For more information, please see our [RPS PC1 and Variation 1 Information Statement](#).

What happens next?

- After receiving submissions, we'll publish a summary of all submissions received and notify you when this is available.
- Following this, there will be an opportunity for certain persons to make a further submission supporting or opposing submissions already made if they so wish.
- Then there will be an opportunity for submitters to speak in support of their submission

(This is projected to occur at RPS Proposed Change 1, [Hearing Stream 7, held in March 2024](#)).

- Greater Wellington will provide a public notice of our decisions based on recommendations from the freshwater hearing panel.
- There is a limited opportunity for submitters to appeal to the High Court depending on whether Greater Wellington accepts or rejects the recommendations of the freshwater hearings panel.

If you have any questions about Variation 1 to the RPS Proposed Change 1, please contact our team at regionalplan@gw.govt.nz.

Daran Ponter

CHAIR

WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

13 October 2023

Greater Wellington, 100 Cuba St, Wellington 6011