

KAHUNGUNU KI WAIRARAPA  
Supplementary Evidence

Kia ora koutou my name is Rawiri Smith and I am an environment manager for the organization I am representing today, Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa. I am mindful of your task as commissioners to deliberate on this plan and we join with you to state how this plan fulfills the regulated requirements.

I wish first to explain how references below relate to our original submission. Section 5, the purpose states "In this Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their cultural well-being and for their health and safety." The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, Section D expands on cultural well-being with respect to the involvement of iwi.

We wish to congratulate Greater Wellington for this innovative regional plan and we wish to reinforce the structure of the overall policy framework for the proposed plan. Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa is mindful that the plan has followed Resource Management Act, Section 67 Contents of regional plans subsection (3) A regional plan must give effect to—(a) any national policy statement;

Section D of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management must then be complied with. When Section D's objective is "to provide for the involvement of iwi and hapū, and to ensure that tāngata whenua values and interests are identified and reflected in the management of fresh water including associated ecosystems, and decision-making regarding freshwater planning", then compliance is to include this objective in the overall policy framework. Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa acknowledges that the GWRC's Natural Resource's Plan.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management goes on to explain how Greater Wellington Regional Council should do this when it states in Policy D1 that "Local authorities shall take reasonable steps to a) involve iwi and hapū in the management of fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region; b) work with iwi and hapū to identify tāngata whenua values and interests in fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region; and c) reflect tāngata whenua values and interests in the management of, and decision-making regarding, fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region."

These three sections of the policy D1 have been fulfilled in the plan. The iwi and hapu have been involved in the drafting the plan and its 5 principles, agreed to by Te Upoko Taiao, a committee of iwi and councillors, setting out how all the aspects of the plan should be seen. These principles are reflected in te reo Maori, Kaitiaki, Mahi Tahī, Wairua, Ki Uta Ki Tai and To Matau Whakapono. In the identification of Maori interests, some of which are listed in: Schedule A: Outstanding water bodies; Schedule B: Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa; Schedule C: Sites with significant mana whenua values; Schedule D: Statutory Acknowledgements from treaty claims Schedule E: Sites with significant historic heritage values Schedule F: Ecosystems and habitats with significant indigenous biodiversity values and Schedule H: Contact recreation and Māori customary use. The management requirements like stock exclusion are connected to these schedules, based on tangata whenua values.

Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa would like to reassert that GWRC has taken reasonable steps to reflect tangata whenua's thinking. We also reassert these aspects are regulatory requirements. Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa challenges objectors to these frameworks to explain how their suggested changes maintain the regulatory requirements referred to above.

The changes Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa would like to now suggest, can better "c) reflect tāngata whenua values and interests in the management of, and decision-making regarding, fresh water and freshwater ecosystems in the region." While some of what GWRC manages is based on iwi values, we would like to see how GWRC manages freshwater is based on iwi values. While some initiatives already tested are aligned with iwi values for freshwater like constructed wetlands, Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa is weary about whether other initiatives will be encouraged by this plan. As a part of the

overview of the overall policy framework we think the Natural Resource Plan should encourage innovation.

Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa's position on innovation is not to underestimate the innovations this plan supports like the whitua development and the possible initiatives that the collaborative modelling project might suggest, but to foster the environment that can make initiatives easier to implement. In new thinking that is being designed now, the passage of implementation often comes through the regional council. Our original submission wanted blue and green infrastructure valued through natural capital. The developments around natural capital have been taken up by the Ministry for the Environment who have the national policy instrument to implement their work. Encouraging the people of our region to innovate benefits for our environment should be support by an instrument in this Natural Resource Plan. The Whitua then might encourage community designed good management practice in a sub catchment that would have the advantage over industry good management practice of being specific to local soil, climate and water conditions. Iwi interest in this specific example is how we might work with our communities to recognise iwi values. In thinking wider, iwi, in the post settlement era, have opportunities to bring their whakaaro, or indigenous thinking, to statutory opportunities, relationships with government departments and as owners of lake beds to improving the management of our environment.

Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa is proud to be associated with this Natural Resources Plan, but do not wish to rest on our laurels and look forward to further developments with our partners, Greater Wellington Regional Council