

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee Meeting – 08 May 2018  
 Prepared by: Hadley Mills – Planning, Science & Innovation Manager  
 Date: 26 April 2018  
 Subject: **NPSFM Implementation Strategy**

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Staff facilitated a workshop after the February 2018 Resource Management Committee (RMC) meeting in which the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) Regional Implementation Strategy was presented and discussed. The attached strategy has been developed by the NPSFM implementation team made up of council staff.

During the past few months the NPSFM implementation team have had a number of hui with Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (TRONT) working on chapter 6 and other minor areas of the strategy. One major clarification that TRONT wanted to confirm was that Freshwater Management Units (FMU's) can have separate management areas for certain values and/or different management processes. We received confirmation from The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) that this is possible and is a common approach. It was agreed to keep all FMU boundaries as originally proposed on the proviso that separate management areas can be identified within FMU's. This could be useful for pounamu rivers for example.

Based on the workshop in February and further discussions with iwi changes that have been made include:

- Removal of the Costing chapter,
- Separation of the Introduction and Background chapter into two separate chapters,
- Addition of the Cultural Importance and Management of Water chapter (chapter 6),
- Addition of other minor changes, including cultural significance sentences in Appendix 2 for each of the FMU's, removal of recommendations for each chapter and general editing; and
- Updating the Progressive Implementation Programme to include the 2030 implementation extension.

Based on separate discussions with MfE it was recommended that we extend our implementation date to 2030. Meeting the 2025 deadline would likely result in lower quality planning. The following extract from the NPSFM outlines our option to extend this date:

*NPSFM Policy E1*

*b) Every regional council is to implement the policy as promptly as is reasonable in the circumstances, and so it is fully completed by no later than 31 December 2025.*

*ba) A regional council may extend the date in Policy E1(b) to 31 December 2030 if it considers that:*

*i. meeting that date would result in lower quality planning; or*

*ii. it would be impracticable for it to complete implementation of a policy by that date.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. *That the report is received.*
2. *That the attached National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) Regional Implementation Strategy including the Progressive Implementation Programme be accepted and forms the direction and framework for staff to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.*
3. *That staff apply to the Ministry for the Environment for an extension of time to 2030 for the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.*

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