

## **Progressive Implementation Programme for implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management – West Coast Regional Council**

November 2018

### Purpose

This document sets out the West Coast Regional Council's staged programme for implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM), pursuant to Policy E1 of the NPS.

Policy E1 states that if it is impractical for a regional council to fully complete implementation of the NPSFM by 31 December 2015 then it may implement it by a programme of defined time-limited stages by which it is to be fully implemented by 31 December 2025 or 31 December 2030 (if certain circumstances apply). The implementation programme must be formally adopted by the regional council by 31 December 2018, and publically notified.

The Council holds the view that it is unlikely to be able to fully implement the NPSFM before 31 December 2025, and has therefore adopted a programme which is presented in the table below. Every regional council must, at intervals of not more than five years, compile and make available to the public a review of the improvements to specified rivers and lakes, and primary contact sites, made in giving effect to Policy A5. Please note that the implementation programme is not open for submissions.

### Progress to date (to November 2018)

2012 – Analysis of the NPSFM 2011 against relevant objectives and policies of the Council's Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Regional Land and Water Plan (RL&WP), and the extent of changes needed to provide for integrated management.

2015 - Trial of Environmental Flows Strategic Assessment Platform (EFSAP). EFSAP is a tool that can be used to evaluate the consequences of setting different water resource use limits across all parts of a catchment or region. EFSAP was used to simulate the consequences of various potential limits on nine catchments within the West Coast region. The scenario testing included comparing the effects of the Council's current limits with the proposed NPSFM 2011.

2015 – Proposed RPS publically notified – see below for more detail.

2016 – Council's Implementation Team formed.

2016 – Topnet hydrological model was calibrated at two Grey catchment sites to test how accurately observed flows could be reproduced. It was found that low flows could be reasonably reproduced at both the New Waipuna and Dobson sites. Large uncertainties are associated with the determination of the regional groundwater by-passing the gauging station at Dobson.

2016 – Cumulative Hydrological Effects Simulator (CHES) was applied to characterise the current status and consequences of water use in the Grey catchment, to explore different water use and limit scenarios, and improve the robustness and transparency of water allocation planning.

2018 – NPSFM - Regional Implementation Strategy drafted and approved by Council.

2018 – Grey Freshwater Management Public Information session held on 13 September. Grey Freshwater Management Unit Community Group convened and first meeting held on 30 October.

Progressive Implementation Programme

	<b>Regional planning initiatives</b>	<b>Site specific / Catchment – specific initiatives</b>	<b>Other non-regulatory initiatives</b>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS) hearings completed in May, incorporating relevant NPSFM provisions. Provisions have been appealed by Forest and Bird, ENV-2018-CHC-000201.</li> <li>Proposed Plan Change 1 (PC1) to Regional Land and Water Plan (RL&amp;WP) hearing completed in June, corrected boundaries of protected Schedule 1 and 2 wetlands.</li> <li>Preliminary review work commenced on RL&amp;WP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grey FMU – Establish engagement group.</li> <li>Grey FMU - Commence community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities’ values.</li> <li>Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> at 18 primary contact sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish monitoring plan and basis of accounting system</li> <li>Monitor in accordance with plan</li> <li>Report on progress – Policy E1(e))</li> </ul>
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RPS appeals resolved on NPSFM provisions.</li> <li>PC1 hearing decisions notified, noting decisions may be appealed. Transitional Policies 8.3A2 and 8.3A5 added to RL&amp;WP with any other changes added through PC1 hearing.</li> <li>Review of RL&amp;WP commences, scope includes reviewing region-wide freshwater provisions, and preliminary drafting of Grey and Buller FMU-specific water objectives and limits (PC2).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grey FMU Group ongoing engagement identifying quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities’ values.</li> <li>Buller FMU - Establish engagement group.</li> <li>Buller FMU - Commence community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities’ values.</li> <li>Hokitika FMU - Establish engagement group.</li> <li>Hokitika FMU - Commence community Group process to identify quality and quantities objectives and targets, and communities values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish monitoring plan and basis of accounting system</li> <li>Refine accounting system for Grey FMU</li> <li>Report on progress – Policy E1(e))</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inangahua FMU - Establish engagement group.</li> <li>• Inangahua FMU - Commence community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values.</li> <li>• Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> at 18 primary contact sites.</li> </ul>	
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing review of RL&amp;WP;</li> <li>• Review region-wide freshwater provisions, and preliminary drafting of Hokitika and Inangahua FMU-specific water objectives and limits (PC3);</li> <li>• Identification and management of outstanding water bodies (PC3);</li> <li>• Complete first draft of plan change for Grey &amp; Buller FMU's, and release to stakeholders for feedback (PC2).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey FMU – community Group concludes with report back to Council.</li> <li>• Buller FMU – community group concludes with report back to Council.</li> <li>• Hokitika FMU - ongoing community engagement identifying quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values.</li> <li>• Inangahua FMU - ongoing community engagement identifying quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values.</li> <li>• South Westland FMU - Establish engagement group if required.</li> <li>• Paparoa FMU - Establish engagement group if required.</li> <li>• South Westland FMU - Commence community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values.</li> <li>• Paparoa FMU - Commence community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor in accordance with plan</li> <li>• Refine accounting system for Buller FMU</li> <li>• Report on progress – Policy E1(e))</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> at 18 primary contact sites.</li> </ul>	
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing review of RL&amp;WP (PC3).</li> <li>Proposed changes to RL&amp;WP, incl. Grey &amp; Buller FMU's, notified under Schedule 1 of the RMA (PC2).</li> <li>Complete first draft of plan change for Hokitika and Inangahua FMU's and release to stakeholders for feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hokitika FMU - community group concludes with report back to Council.</li> <li>Inangahua FMU - community group concludes with report back to Council.</li> <li>Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> at 18 primary contact sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor in accordance with plan</li> <li>Refine accounting system for Hokitika FMU</li> <li>Refine accounting system for Inangahua FMU</li> <li>Refine accounting system for South Westland FMU</li> <li>Refine accounting system for Paparoa FMU</li> <li>Report on progress – Policy E1(e)</li> </ul>
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete first draft of plan change for Paparoa and South Westland FMU-specific water objectives and limits (PC3);</li> <li>Identification and management of outstanding water bodies (PC3).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Westland FMU - community group concludes with report back to Council.</li> <li>Paparoa FMU - community group concludes with report back to Council.</li> <li>Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> at 18 primary contact sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor in accordance with plan</li> <li>Report on progress – Policy E1(e)</li> </ul>
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete first draft of RL&amp;WP and release for stakeholder feedback (PC3).</li> <li>Proposed changes to RL&amp;WP, incl. Inangahua, Hokitika, Paparoa and South Westland FMU's specific provisions, notified under Schedule 1 of the RMA. PC3 will also include the following NPSFM requirements:</li> </ul> <p><b>Freshwater quantity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshwater quantity management units for rivers, lakes and aquifers –Policy CA1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory elements of FMUs incorporated into draft Regional Plan</li> <li>Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> at 18 primary contact sites.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater quantity objectives – Policy B1</li> <li>• Freshwater quantity limits for each FMU, except for minimum level for aquifers and allocation limits for lakes (refer Policy B1)</li> <li>• Policy and rules to improve and maximise the efficient allocation and efficient use of water (Policies B2, B3 and B4)</li> <li>• Policy and rules to avoid over-allocation (Policy B5)</li> </ul> <p><b>Freshwater quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality standards in rivers (periphyton, nitrate toxicity, ammonia toxicity, dissolved oxygen, E. coli and cyanobacteria – for lake fed rivers).</li> <li>• Water quality standards for lakes (phytoplankton, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, ammonia toxicity, E. coli and cyanobacteria).</li> <li>• Policy to maintain overall water quality</li> <li>• Provisions to manage discharges to land and water, including rules requiring the adoption of the best practicable option to manage discharges of contaminants (refer Policy A3)</li> <li>• Provisions to manage the disturbance of the beds of lakes, rivers and certain uses of land.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisions to protect identified outstanding freshwater bodies (refer Objective A2a and b, and Objective A4)</li> </ul>		
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2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with First Schedule Proposed Plan change processes for PC3</li> <li>Hearings for PC2 and PC3</li> </ul> <p><i>*TBC if both Plan Changes are heard together</i></p>	<p>Assess the need for/establish further engagement groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including regulatory elements of any further engagement groups.</li> <li>Refine/adjust objectives and limits (if needed).</li> </ul>	
2028	<p>Complete Proposed Plan processes, including addressing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any further amendments to the NPSFM.</li> <li>Further catchment specific regulatory measures.</li> </ul>		
2030	Implementation complete		