

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

November 2019

Purpose

This document sets out the West Coast Regional Council's staged programme for implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2017 (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 publicly 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 December 2019)

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 publicly 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.

2019

The Grey Mawhera Freshwater Group have met 12 times, with 3 meetings scheduled in 2020, after which they will present their recommendation to council.

The Buller Freshwater Management Community Information session was held on 10 April. Based on feedback from this meeting a recommendation was made to Council to amalgamate the Buller with the Inangahua and Paparoa FMUs. This recommendation was endorsed along with an updated Implementation Strategy to reflect this. The amalgamated area is known as the Kawatiri FMU. Additional Community Information sessions were held in Reefton on 11 June, and in Punakaiki on 13 June, to attract applications from the former Inangahua and Paparoa FMU areas for the Kawatiri FMU. The Kawatiri FMU Community Group held its first meeting on 6 August. In 2019, 5 meetings were held, with another 5 to be held in 2020. The Council has decided to reduce the number of meetings from 15 to 10, to reflect the compressed timeframes for RMA Schedule 1 plan changes in the proposed NPSFM, and to address impacts on staff resourcing.

The Council is organising two Hokitika Freshwater Management Community Information sessions. The first one is to be held in Hokitika on Tuesday 21 January 2020 and the second on Thursday 23 January 2020 in Harihari. The first meeting for the Hokitika FMU Group will be held in March 2020, with 10 meetings ending in December 2020. Group recommendations will go to Council in early 2021.

A review of the Council's State of the Environment monitoring programme has commenced to ensure that it is consistent with the NPSFM purpose.

Progressive Implementation Programme

	Regional planning initiatives	Site specific & catchment specific initiatives	Other non-regulatory initiatives
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Proposed Plan Change 1 (PC1) to Regional Land and Water Plan (RL&WP) hearing adjourned in June for further site visits to be undertaken. Hearing to correct boundaries of protected Schedule 1 and 2 wetlands. Preliminary review work commenced on RL&WP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey FMU – Establish Community Group. Grey FMU - Commence Community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities’ values. Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> and Enterococci at 18 contact recreation sites in the Grey, Hokitika, and Kawatiri FMU’s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish monitoring plan and basis of accounting system Monitor in accordance with plan Report on progress – Policy E1(e))
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC1 hearings completed and Council received hearing panel recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey FMU Group ongoing engagement identifying quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities’ values. Kawatiri FMU - Establish Community Group. Kawatiri FMU - Commence Community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities’ values. Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> and Enterococci at 18 contact recreation sites in the Grey, Hokitika, and Kawatiri FMU’s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish monitoring plan and basis of accounting system Review State of the Environment monitoring to see if fit for purpose Matauranga Maori hui held in September to start process and be taken forward by Poutini Ngāi Tahu in 2020 Refine accounting system for Grey FMU Report on progress – Policy E1(e))
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPS appeals resolved on NPSFM provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey FMU – Community Group concludes with report back to Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor in accordance with plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC1 Decisions notified, noting decisions may be appealed. • NPSFM Transitional Policies 8.3A2 and 8.3A5 added to RL&WP with any other changes added through PC1 hearing. • Review of RL&WP commences, scope includes reviewing region-wide freshwater provisions, and preliminary drafting of Grey FMU-specific water objectives and limits (PC2). • Complete first draft of plan change for Grey FMU, and release to stakeholders for feedback (PC2). • Draft criteria to be used for Outstanding Fresh Waterbody assessments (PC2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kawatiri FMU Group - Ongoing engagement identifying quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values. • Hokitika FMU - Establish Community group. • Hokitika FMU - Commence Community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values. • South Westland FMU - Establish Community Group. • South Westland FMU - Commence Community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values. • Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> and Enterococci at 18 contact recreation sites in the Grey, Hokitika, and Kawatiri FMU's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on progress – Policy E1(e))
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed changes to RL&WP, incl. Grey FMU's, and criteria for Outstanding Fresh Waterbody assessment notified under Schedule 1 of the RMA (PC2). • Review region-wide freshwater provisions, and preliminary drafting of Kawatiri and Hokitika FMU-specific water objectives and limits (PC3); • Draft identification and management of outstanding water bodies (PC3); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kawatiri FMU – Community Group concludes with report back to Council. • Hokitika FMU - Ongoing Community Group process to identify quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values. • Hokitika FMU - Community Group concludes with report back to Council. • Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> and Enterococci at 18 contact recreation sites in the Grey, Hokitika, and Kawatiri FMU's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor in accordance with plan • Refine accounting system for Kawatiri FMU • Refine accounting system for Hokitika FMU • Report on progress – Policy E1(e))

2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete first draft of plan change for South Westland FMU-specific water objectives and limits (PC3); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Westland FMU Group - Ongoing engagement identifying quality and quantity objectives and targets, and communities' values. • South Westland FMU - Community Group concludes with report back to Council. • Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> and Enterococci at 18 contact recreation sites in the Grey, Hokitika, and Kawatiri FMU's. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine accounting system for South Westland FMU • Monitor in accordance with plan • Report on progress – Policy E1(e))
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete first draft of RL&WP and release for stakeholder feedback (PC3). • Proposed changes to RL&WP, incl. Kawatiri, Hokitika, and South Westland FMU's specific provisions, and Outstanding Fresh Waterbodies notified under Schedule 1 of the RMA. PC3 will also include the following NPSFM requirements: <p>Freshwater quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater quantity management units for rivers, lakes and aquifers –Policy CA1. • Freshwater quantity objectives – Policy B1 • Freshwater quantity limits for each FMU, except for minimum level for aquifers and allocation limits for lakes (refer Policy B1) • Policy and rules to improve and maximise the efficient allocation and efficient use of water (Policies B2, B3 and B4) • Policy and rules to avoid over-allocation (Policy B5) <p>Freshwater quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory elements of FMUs incorporated into draft Regional Plan • Ongoing surveillance monitoring of <i>E.coli</i> and Enterococci at 18 contact recreation sites in the Grey, Hokitika, and Kawatiri FMU's. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality standards in rivers (periphyton, nitrate toxicity, ammonia toxicity, dissolved oxygen, E. coli and cyanobacteria – for lake fed rivers). • Water quality standards for lakes (phytoplankton, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, ammonia toxicity, E. coli and cyanobacteria). • Policy to maintain overall water quality • 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) • Provisions to manage the disturbance of the beds of lakes, rivers and certain uses of land. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions to protect identified outstanding freshwater bodies (refer Objective A2a and b, and Objective A4) • Provisions for management of sites of significance to tangata whenua. 		
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with First Schedule Proposed Plan change processes for PC3 • Hearings for PC2 and PC3 <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"> • Including regulatory elements of any further engagement groups. 	
2028	<p>Complete Proposed Plan processes, including addressing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any further amendments to the NPSFM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine/adjust objectives and limits (if needed). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further catchment specific regulatory measures.		
2030	Implementation complete		