

Appendix 3 - Regional Targets for the West Coast Region

Introduction

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (as amended in August 2017) directs all regional councils (including unitary authorities) to set regional targets to improve the quality of fresh water so they are suitable for primary contact more often. This information sheet has been prepared to meet this requirement. "Primary contact" includes swimming, and means people's contact with fresh water that involves immersion in the water. Being suitable for primary contact more often includes improvements in water quality from one state to another (for example, orange to yellow, yellow to green, or green to blue).

All regional councils have worked together to use the best information available to identify:

- The improvements that will be made to water quality in rivers and lakes in the West Coast region under programmes that are planned or underway
- When the anticipated water quality improvements will be achieved
- The likely costs of all interventions, and where these costs will fall

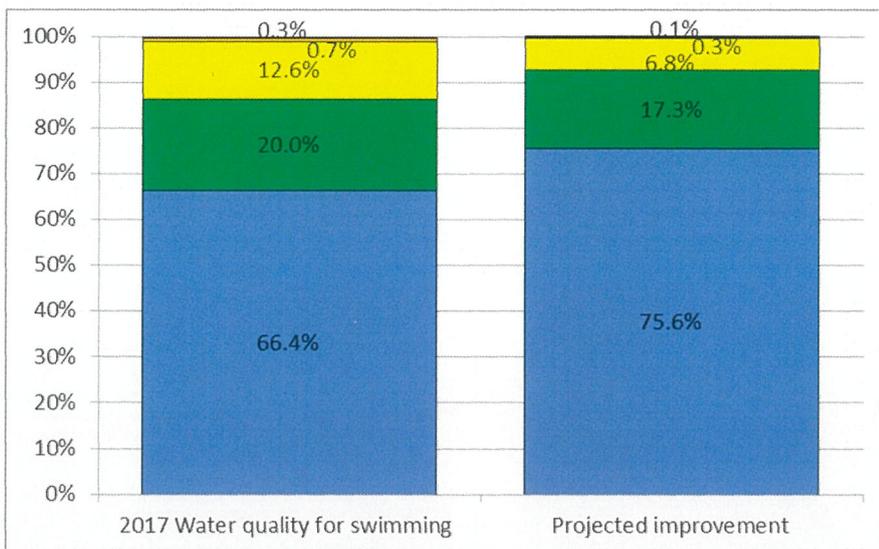
Regional context and focus

The overall swimmable state of the West Coast region's rivers is 99% swimmable (that is, 99% of rivers that are fourth order or larger are in the blue, green or yellow category in terms of *E. coli*). For lakes with perimeters greater than 1500 metres, 99% are in the blue, green or yellow category in terms of cyanobacteria based on the status quo.

Depending on future direction from central government we may have to work with farmers to fence and plant waterways.

Regional targets

The primary contact regional targets for the West Coast region, based on the modelling of programmes underway, are for 99.5% of rivers that are fourth order or larger to be in the blue, green or yellow category in terms of *E. coli* by 2030 (shown in the graph below).



The regional priorities for the West Coast are to concentrate on improving the quality of discharges to waterways because this is a particular concern to our communities. The West Coast Regional Council will continue to work with the community, iwi and stake holders to manage nutrients entering our waterways.

Our work on the targets fits with our wider programme of freshwater management, including our consultation programme planned for the NPSFM and freshwater management units. The values of the community and iwi will continue to inform our future focus relating to freshwater management.