

By email

6 November 2023

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Board Chair
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Tēna koe Nick

Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

On Thursday 26 October 2023, Greater Wellington Regional Council approved the notification of Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (Plan Change 1). It is now open for submissions until 15 December 2023.

Plan Change 1 is a result of collaboration with mana whenua, communities, territorial authorities and Wellington Water Limited during the Te Awarua-o-Porirua and Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Committee processes. Recommendations from the Whaitua Implementation Programmes have been incorporated into Plan Change 1.

I would like to acknowledge the role of Wellington Water in the Whaitua process over the past five years. Wellington Water has been an integral member of this process contributing your expert advice, time, and commitment. Thank you for your mahi. We should all be proud of what has been achieved in this time to protect our fresh and coastal waters by working together.

Plan Change 1 will have a number of impacts on Wellington Water including more specific requirements to improve stormwater and wastewater discharges. Wastewater network upgrades will be required to achieve *E. coli* target attribute states and enterococci coastal water objectives.

During the limited consultation process on the draft plan change that Wellington Water was a part of, two timeframe options for Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua to comply were proposed:

- Option 1 - by 2040
- Option 2 - 2050 for Te Awarua-o-Porirua and 2060 for Te Whanganui-o-Tara.

Option 1 was the timeframe recommended by the Whaitua Committees and adopted by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Greater Wellington considers that the timeframe should reflect the 2040 date recommended in the Whitua Implementation Programmes and should not be extended. It has therefore been included in Proposed Plan Change 1.

Greater Wellington acknowledges this timeline is ambitious and will require infrastructure investment to achieve the water quality target attribute states and coastal objectives.

There is likely to be a need for territorial authorities and Wellington Water Limited to consider new funding mechanisms such as targeted rates, water user charges and infrastructure growth charges (as used by Watercare in Auckland) to support achievement of the 2040 timeframe. There will also be a need for innovative technologies into immediate and long-term infrastructure, and personnel planning.

Greater Wellington is the environmental protection agency for the Wellington Region. Our priority is the environment and the community's safe use of the region's water bodies. Greater Wellington, territorial authorities and Wellington Water Limited will need to bring our collective knowledge together to meet the mana whenua and community goals set in the Whitua Implementation Programmes and the Natural Resources Plan. We look forward to working with you to achieve this.

We encourage you to make a submission on Proposed Plan Change 1. You can do this at www.gw.govt.nz/nrp-pc1-consultation

If you would like to discuss the proposed timeframe options or the wider Proposed Plan Change 1, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Daran Ponter
Chair

CC
Tonia Haskell, Chief Executive, Wellington Water
Mayor Campbell Barry, Chair, Wellington Water Committee