

Report 13.659  
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Committee Council  
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## **Regional Plan development process: from workshops, to draft and proposed**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the progress of the Regional Plan review, and to explain the upcoming process of development from Workshops to a Draft Plan and then Proposed Plan.

### **2. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1 Regional Plan development process: from workshops, to draft, to proposed**

Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee was established in 2009 with a purpose to review the Wellington region’s Regional Plans. Since the Committee’s establishment, a substantial amount of work has been done by Committee members and staff to:

- Reflect on the current operative plans
- Consider the current science and information we hold
- Consult with the tangata whenua, public, and stakeholders throughout the process, and
- Develop preliminary draft provisions for consultation and workshops

##### **3.1.1 Regional Plan: working document for discussion**

At the 13 August 2013 meeting of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, it is anticipated that the Committee will approve a first working document of the Regional Plan for widespread discussion. The Environmental Policy department will use the provisions

within the working document for discussion to continue conversations and workshops with stakeholders throughout August – November 2013. Throughout December 2013 and January 2014, Environmental Policy department staff will then incorporate feedback from the stakeholder conversations into the final Draft Plan provisions.

This step will allow stakeholders and interested parties to consider preliminary policy options in the context of a whole planning framework. Prior to this date, community based workshops have been focused on topic areas only. While this will continue, it will now occur in a wider context of the whole plan structure. This is an important step in getting stakeholder and interest group input into development of the second generation regional plan and will move the process towards a formal draft for wider public comment in early 2014 and a proposed plan later in 2014.

### **3.1.2 Draft Regional Plan to a Proposed Regional Plan**

In February 2014, Te Upoko Taiao will be presented with the re-worked provisions for approval for release as a Draft Regional Plan. It is then intended that the Draft Regional Plan will be made available online and will be open for comment for approximately 6 weeks. All comments received will need to be reviewed and any consequent changes incorporated over the course of 10-12 weeks.

It will then take an additional 6-8 weeks approximately to produce a Proposed Plan. It is therefore anticipated that the release of the Proposed Regional Plan will occur between September/October 2014.

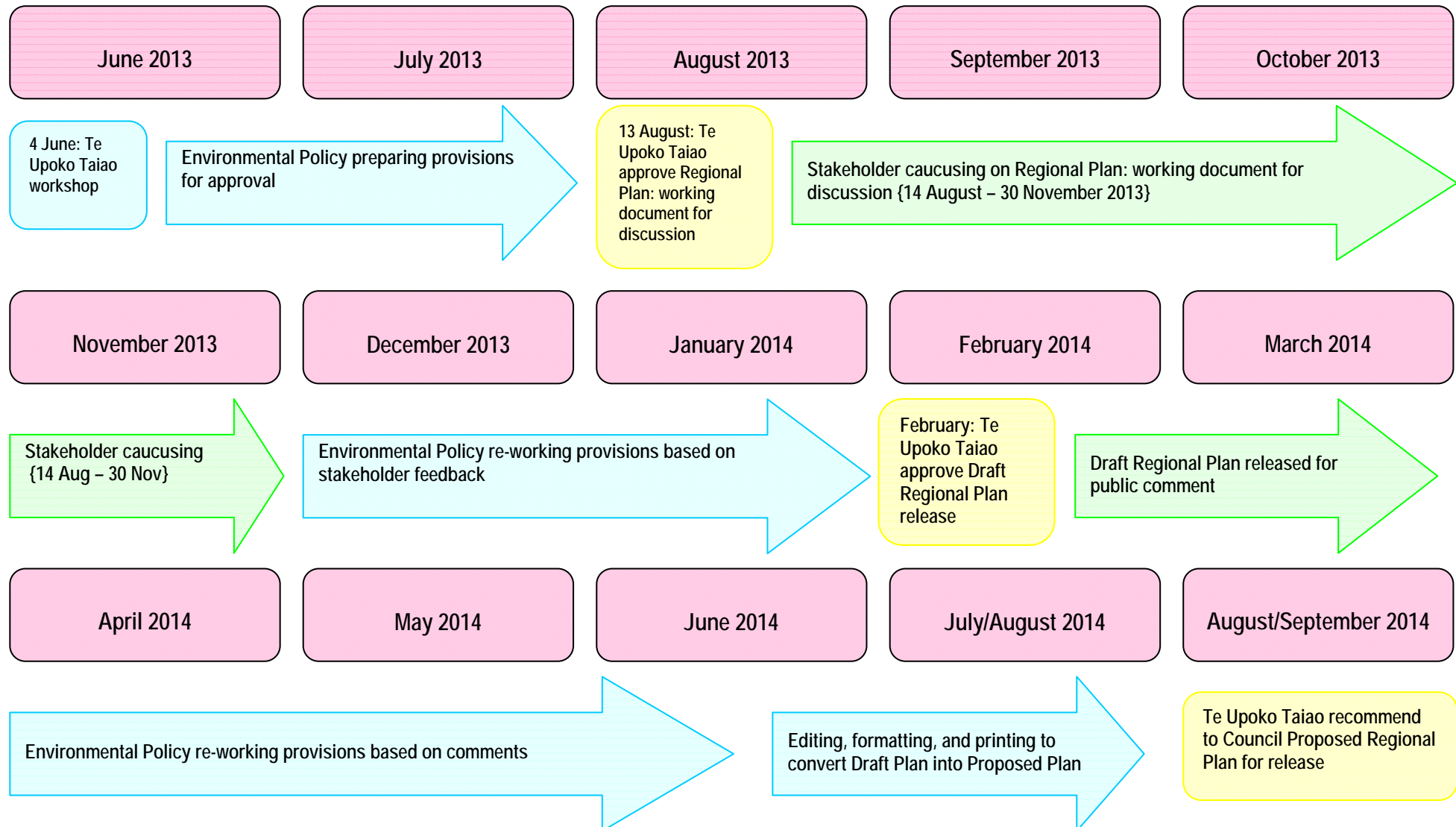
### **3.1.3 Proposed Regional Plan to an operative Regional Plan**

Once the Regional Plan is “proposed”, it enters the formal statutory process under Schedule 1 of the RMA, involving submissions, hearings, decisions and appeals.

## **3.2 Whaitua programme**

Concurrent with to the Regional Plan review process is a programme of work establishing Whaitua committees across the region. The first Whaitua committee will be established in the Raumāhanga catchment as outlined in the Report No. 13.660.

#### 4. Regional Plan Review timeline



## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Council*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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