

For Information

WHAITUA IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Environment Committee (the Committee) on progress to date in implementing received Whaitua Implementation Programmes (WIP). It includes the detailed progress reports for each WIP in **Attachments 1-3**.

Te tāhū kōrero

Background

2. WIPs for four whaitua have been received by Council to support giving effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM):
 - a Ruamāhanga WIP, in August 2018 (Completion of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme – Report 18.289)
 - b Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP and Ngāti Toa Rangatira Statement, in April 2019 (Completion of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Implementation Programme – Report 19.121)
 - c Te Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao, in September 2021 (Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Implementation Programme and Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao – Report 21.422).
 - d Te Whaitua o Kāpiti, in September 2024 (Report 24.458)
3. The Ruamāhanga and Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIPs were instructed by the NPS-FM 2014 (amended 2017), while Te Whanganui-a-Tara and Kāpiti WIPs were instructed by the NPS-FM 2020.
4. This report is part of a six-monthly reporting schedule, collating information on key work being led by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) and partners to implement WIPs.
5. The Whaitua development programme began in 2014 to underpin Greater Wellington's approach to giving effect to the NPS-FM. The reports received to date include 458¹ recommendations across four catchments. In the past 18 months,

¹ There is a total of 396 recommendations in the WIPs, however some have multiple parts and have been split out resulting in the higher number of 458.

Greater Wellington has worked on improving its transparency and reporting against these recommendations and this report is the latest edition.

Te tātaritanga

Analysis

6. While providing updates against individual recommendations has value, particularly to former members of Whaitua committees actively following progress, Greater Wellington is moving towards a more integrated approach to reporting. This report includes a short reporting statement against recommendations, and a mix of case studies to illustrate how recommendations are being put into action.
7. This report brings in new information from Wellington City Council (WCC), Porirua City Council (PCC) and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira (TRoTR). Hutt City Council (HCC) provided a full update in November 2023. Information from Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) has not yet been received.
8. Table 1 shows the percentage movement between recommendations over the last 12 months. Bar graphs comparing progress to a year ago are included in the individual whaitua attachments to this report. Given the long-term nature of these recommendations, and the fact that many are implemented through ongoing work programmes, there is little movement shown.

Implementation Category	Number of recs (2024)	Percentage in 2023	Percentage in 2024
Regulatory change underway	143	36%	31%
Future plan change	21	0%	4%
To be commissioned	85	22%	21%
Currently being implemented	145	28%	32%
Fully implemented	19	3%	4%
Supporting Mana Whenua governance, delivery and funding	24	5%	5%
Other	21	6%	4%
Total	458		

Table 1. Categorisation of recommendations and progress in 2023 and 2024

9. The recommendation categories (e.g., “Regulatory change underway”, “Currently being implemented” etc.) are based on an earlier model of programme management Greater Wellington used for WIP implementation. They were designed for internal purposes and are not as useful for explaining overall progress. Greater Wellington intends to review these categories to provide a more meaningful picture of progress.

10. While this report provides an update and shows significant progress continues to be made in many areas, it does not yet provide useful insights into the challenges with implementation. In our next report we intend to present a fuller picture around the complexity with taking some recommendations forward.
11. A stronger focus on implementation aligns with the Environment Group's internal changes to take a more holistic approach to how it integrates its work at places. These recommendations remain a key input to both what and how Greater Wellington determines its work programmes, as guided by Council.

Ruamāhanga

12. The Ruamāhanga WIP was received in 2018. It has 119 recommendations of which 64 require non-regulatory implementation. Work to give effect to the WIP and pursue its objectives are being grouped for operational purposes around Wairarapa Moana, the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy, and support for the Wairarapa Catchment Collective.
13. Changes to the Natural Resources Plan to give effect to 55 regulatory recommendations are still pending. Greater Wellington is currently examining the changes that could be made to advance whaitua outcomes in the near term, against the backdrop of changing national direction.

Wairarapa Moana

14. WIP recommendations relating to in-lake management options for improvement of freshwater values around Wairarapa Moana are being pursued in conjunction with integrated work under the new Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board. The Environment Group is currently exploring integrated planning of all our activities in Wairarapa Moana for the 2025/26 to 2027/28 financial years. This work is also addressing transition arrangements associated with the 30 June 2025 end-date for Ministry for the Environment (MfE) funded work under the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project.
15. Greater Wellington is separately progressing work to deliver a review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS) as part of the consent conditions for the Geoffrey Blundell Barrage Gates. This project will make a strong contribution to advancing whaitua objectives around Wairarapa Moana. More information is provided in the case study below, "Enhancing Wairarapa Moana through a review of the development scheme."
16. The establishment of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board also provides an opportunity to work closely with mana whenua and other partners in the development of the 'Natural Resources Document'. This is part of the cultural redress in Te Rohe o Rongokako Joint Redress Act 2022. Greater Wellington must recognise and provide for the direction set by this document. Overlap between the work done under the Ruamāhanga WIP process and the focus of the Board on natural resource management has been identified by the Board. Greater Wellington is providing information and copies of the WIP to the Board to support their exploration of this synergy.

Water resilience

17. Many of the recommendations in the Ruamāhanga WIP relate to water efficiency and changes in how water is managed. These are most appropriately pursued in conjunction with the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS). A combined governance group of Wairarapa councils and iwi has recently approved shared funding for a Programme Director to oversee this work.
18. Greater Wellington is working with Wairarapa territorial authorities and iwi to advance actions under the strategy including work on water efficiency and allocations. Greater Wellington is seeking to align work under both the WIP and WWRS so that the work is coherent and easily explained.
19. The Natural Attenuation and Water Allocation workstreams under the WWRS are currently being led by Greater Wellington's Environment Group with support from external partners. As part of the Water Allocation workstream Greater Wellington is working with GNS to prepare for the release of a public viewer of information from the SkyTEM aerial survey in coming months.

Wairarapa Catchment Collective

20. Greater Wellington has supported the establishment of the Wairarapa Catchment Collective as a partnership which also includes Mountains-to-Sea. This is our key vehicle for delivering on WIP recommendations relating to support for landowners to plan and manage freshwater outcomes at a sub-catchment scale. Combined with Certified Farm Environment Plans as laid out in the Natural Resources Plan, we are supporting landowners to plan at a community scale while providing coordinated support for action-on-the-ground.
21. More information is provided in the Wairarapa Coast update below.

Regulatory implementation

22. Changes to the Natural Resources Plan to give effect to regulatory recommendations are still pending. Greater Wellington is currently examining what changes could be made to advance whaitua outcomes in the near term, against the backdrop of changing national direction.

Community partnerships

23. Collective action is a key principle within the Ruamāhanga WIP. Support for mana whenua participation and leadership is outlined in the first recommendation.
24. The following key activities to advance collective action have occurred since the previous (November 2023) report.
25. The following case study is an example of how the WIP has been incorporated into priority work underway.

Description	Date	Notes
Water Resilience Strategy	2 Feb 2024	Confirmed Terms of Reference and discussion of work programme
Catchment Collective	30 Apr 2024	Development of workplan and organising recruitment into roles

Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board	21 Jun 2024	Greater Wellington presentation on freshwater work relevant to the Board
Catchment Collective	26 Jun 2024	Inaugural AGM and launch
Water Resilience Strategy	2 Jul 2024	Work programme workshop
Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board	19 Jul 2024	Wānanga on vision and values
Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board	9 Aug 2024	Annual Planning Meeting – work in the Wairarapa Moana Reserves
Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board	13 Sept 2024	Greater Wellington presentation of all our work in the Ruamāhanga
Kohunui Marae / NIWA wānanga	27-29 Sept 2024	Discussion of review of the LWVDS in relation to whaitua outcomes
Water Resilience Strategy	29 Oct 2024	Approval of work programme, SkyTEM presentation

Table 2. Collective action conversations on WIP implementation

Enhancing Wairarapa Moana through a review of the development scheme



Image 1: Greater Wellington staff lead a discussion on how a review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme can support cultural outcomes and enhanced freshwater values.

26. Following 10 years of kākahi (freshwater mussel) monitoring and a range of other environmental investigations led by NIWA, a three-day wānanga was held with whānau from Tuhirangi, Kohunui Marae to explore the past and future of Wairarapa Moana.
27. Presentations from Greater Wellington included climate predictions and the history of the LWVDS. These kōrero provided the basis for a range of questions and

concerns to be raised about our review of the scheme, the existing diversion of the Ruamāhanga and the operation of the barrage gates and spit opening.

28. Working alongside mana whenua, the iwi settlement trusts, rūnanga organisations and the new statutory board will be key to making progress on these recommendations.

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Catchment

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whakaritenga - Porirua Harbour Accord

29. Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whakaritenga - Porirua Harbour Accord provides a framework for partnership between Greater Wellington, TRoTR, PCC, WCC and Wellington Water Limited (WWL).
30. WCC and PCC are looking to schedule Accord presentations to their respective councils in November and December 2024. We are hopeful the Accord will be signed in early 2025.
31. The fortnightly Te Whakaritenga /Accord project team meetings were re-established in September 2024. Work continues with all partners to identifying their 2024/25 mahi (programme commitments) so we have visibility across each other's programmes.
32. The following key activities to advance collective action have occurred since the previous (November 2023) report.

Description	Date	Notes
Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whakaritenga - Porirua Harbour Accord team meetings	Fortnightly	Accord partners hui with TRoTR, Greater Wellington, PCC, WCC and WWL
Monthly cultural health monitoring hui for Te Awarua o Porirua	Monthly	Coordinated by TRoTR, these include: Greater Wellington, PCC, WCC, ESR, WWL, Victoria University of Wellington, Hutt Valley District Health Board, NIWA
Collaboration on restoration	Several hui	PCC and Greater Wellington have worked together to agree a combined restoration work programme for 2025/26
Te Whakahou o Te Awarua o Porirua – Fostering sharing of data	27 Jun 2024	Workshop with numerous agencies involved in harbour activities
PCC freshwater citizen science workshop/ hui	25 Sept 2024	Workshop/hui for our community groups contributing to the PCC Citizen Science Monitoring
Senior Leadership hui with GW & PCC	23 Oct 2024	GMs and managers from Greater Wellington and PCC infrastructure teams

Table 3. Collective action conversations on WIP implementation

Te Wai Māori o Porirua monitoring programme



Figure 5,6 & 7: Representatives from ESR, TRoTR, PCC, Greater Wellington and Mountains to Sea Wellington taking part in Wai Māori o Porirua monitoring

33. A monitoring collaboration in Te Awarua-o-Porirua kicked off in September 2024. The new Te Wai Māori o Porirua monitoring programme is a collaboration between TRoTR, ESR (Crown research institute), PCC, Mountains to Sea Wellington and Greater Wellington.
34. This includes an initial pilot project monitoring seven streams in the catchment (Te Awarua-o-Porirua, Kenepuru Iti, Mahinawa, Kahotea, Wai o Hata/Duck Creek, Takapūwāhia and Hongoeka). The monitoring work includes deploying passive samplers to collect *E. coli* readings (led by ESR), cultural health assessments (led

by TRoTR), terrestrial vegetation assessments (led by PCC), and water quality sampling (led by Greater Wellington).

Partnership with Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira

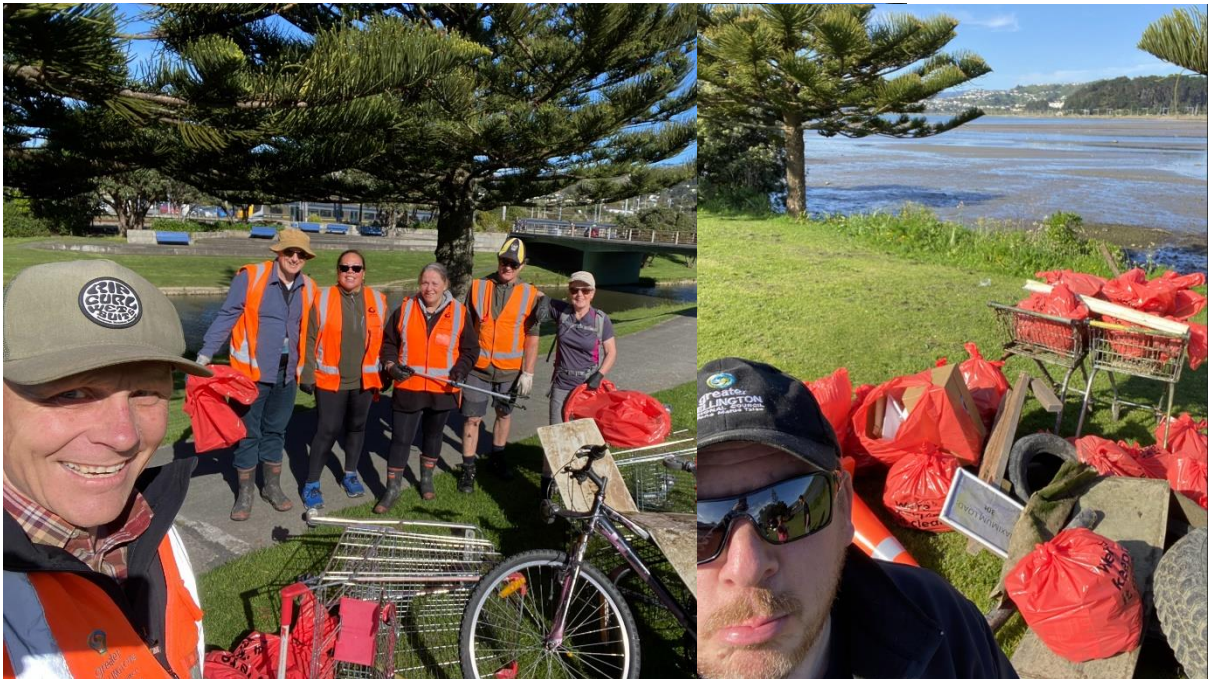


Figure 8: Some of the Greater Wellington team on the October 2024 clean up with TRoTR

35. Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Streams and Coastal Clean Up - TRoTR continue to coordinate a twice a year harbour and streams clean up. These are supported by Greater Wellington, PCC, community groups and the Porirua community. The February 2024 clean-up saw their highest number of participants (140) on the day. The area included the Onepoto Arm of the Harbour around to Onehunga Bay at Whitireia, and the five streams that enter the Harbour.
36. This resulted in the total of 1,270kgs of rubbish (excluding tyres) being collected on the day. The items of rubbish included 31 tyres, five shopping trolleys, and 27 road cones. The second clean-up took place on 17 October 2024.
37. TRoTR has developed Ki te whakahoki Te Awarua o Porirua, Towards the restoration of Te Awarua-o-Porirua, Cultural Health Monitoring Plan, August 2024.
38. The restoration plan will constitute part of TRoTR's Poutiaki Plan under section 146 of the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014 and an Iwi Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) under the Resource Management Act 1991.
39. Both these documents are envisaged to provide direction for the implementation of the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Accord, cultural health monitoring and the overall restoration of the harbour, guided by a Porirua Harbour Catchment Action Plan by the end of 2025.
40. TRoTR have led and been involved in numerous planting projects across their rohe including: Hukarito Stream, Cannons Creek, Hongoeka and Battle Hill.

Collaboration with Porirua City Council on Restoration and land use change



Figure 9: An example of riparian planting on-farm as part of good land management practice

41. Greater Wellington teams have been working closely with PCC's riparian programme team to see how we better coordinate and incentivise land use change with rural landowners in the catchment.
42. An agreement has been finalised in October 2024 to combine Greater Wellington and PCC programmes in 2025 and 2026 to support private landowners. This programme will be a game changer (enabling higher subsidies) for revegetating priority erosion prone land in the catchment, leading to reduced sediment loss into the harbour. Technical advice from Greater Wellington led PCC to adjust its MfE funding agreement to enable some reallocation funds from riparian to erosion prone land revegetation.
43. This aligns PCC support with Greater Wellington's current erosion control (WRECI) programme that will support fencing to retire erosion prone land. This agreement provides greater opportunity to get larger scale land use change and ultimately better water quality and biodiversity outcomes.
44. This collaboration will also prove invaluable as we support landowners through the changes proposed in Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resource Plan.
45. PCC recently approached Greater Wellington seeking advice around a new subdivision in the Kakaho stream catchment. Greater Wellington considers the Kakaho Catchment to be high priority for environmental protection and is committed to working with PCC to achieving good on the ground environmental outcomes.

46. Greater Wellington provided a memo to PCC to support their conversations with the developer. The memo outlined Greater Wellington's views in relation to managing erosion prone land, biodiversity improvements, wetland and saltmarsh protection/enhancement and natural hazards.

Porirua City Council

Te Awarua o Porirua Restoration

47. The Riparian Management programme has seen more than 160,000 plants planted along waterways in the Te Awarua-o-Porirua catchment this winter. There were 23 rural landowners that benefited from riparian planting on their properties and there has already been significant interest for next year. A number of these properties were done jointly with Greater Wellington, subsidising fencing and native seedlings in some cases. The re-cloaking of Rangituhi has seen over 25,000 plants this year and animal pest control has significantly reduced goat grazing.
48. This planting season, through a combination of contractor and community volunteers, PCC has coordinated the planting of 7,606 plants in the harbour margins around Motukaraka Point, Ivey Bay and Porirua Stream mouth.

Cannons Creek Wetland

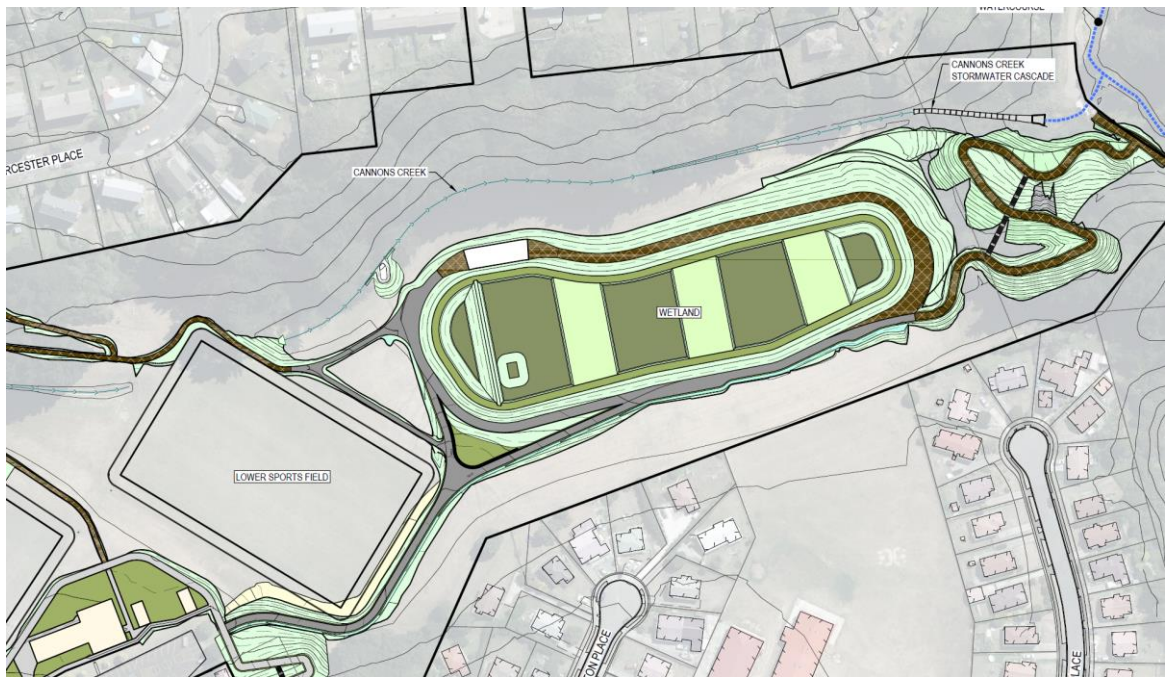


Figure 10: Wetland location in Cannons Creek Park.

49. Design and consenting are nearing completion for the Cannons Creek Wetland. This 9,000m² wetland is one of the infrastructure projects, jointly funded by PCC and Kāinga Ora, to be implemented as part of the Eastern Porirua Development Project.
50. It is designed to improve the water quality of the urban runoff from the catchment before it discharges into Kenepuru Stream. It will also provide attenuation for flood waters, helping to reduce the peak flows into the stream. This wetland is the second

large scale constructed wetland to be built in Porirua, with a third also being planned in Plimmerton.

Wastewater Overflow Reduction



Figure 11: Porirua Wastewater Retention Tank Construction

51. Construction is in full swing of the Porirua CBD Wastewater Retention Tank and the Bothamley Park Wastewater Main Upgrade. These projects have a combined value of over \$165 million and will significantly reduce the frequency and volume of wastewater overflows into the harbour.

Private Network Condition Assessment

52. PCC has continued to fund \$250,000 annually for its “Know your Pipes” programme with WWL that helps identify cross connections and faults in the private half of the wastewater network.

Citizen Science

53. Mountains to Sea and PCC are also supporting a community-led harbour initiative. The Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring Programme has been running for a year now. This programme involves volunteers throughout the catchment collecting water quality samples on a quarterly basis at 13 monitoring sites and undertaking fish surveys at four sites.
54. The data confirms that the Upper Pāuatahanui stream site has best all round water quality results of all the streams feeding the harbour. The Kenepuru Stream that drains parts of Johnsonville, Newlands and Tawa has the highest concentrations of E.coli and nitrates.

Te Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara

55. Te Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai o Te Kāhui Taiao were received in 2021, with 111 and 101 recommendations respectively. Some of the recommendations contain multiple components and responsibility for delivery; these have been split for reporting purposes.
56. Greater Wellington’s work to give effect to the WIP and Te Mahere Wai is occurring through changes to the Natural Resources Plan notified in October 2023 (Proposed Change 1, (PC1)), delivery of non-regulatory work programmes, and advocacy for WIP objectives to other agencies. PC1 hearings began in November 2024. A further plan change will be required to address the water quantity recommendations including water allocation and minimum flows.
57. Territorial authorities and WWL are also implementing recommendations through regulatory changes and non-regulatory programmes, referencing the WIP and Te Mahere Wai as key guidance documents.

Partnership

58. The WIP and Te Mahere emphasize that achieving improvements in Te Whanganui-a-Tara waterways will not occur without collaboration, with most of the recommendations framed as “Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua and territorial authorities work with communities to ...”.
59. Greater Wellington works closely with territorial authorities and WWL in many areas relevant to WIP implementation including wastewater and stormwater consents, wastewater treatment plant consents, bulk water supply, water metering, water quality monitoring, and district and regional planning and policy development.
60. Engagement with mana whenua occurs in a range of forums including the Te Awa Kairangi Subcommittee (on floodplain management and related matters), Rōpū Tiaki (Parangarahu Lakes), RiverLink, and consenting.
61. The table below lists activities to advance collective action that have occurred since the previous (November 2023) report.

Description	Date	Notes
Rōpū Tiaki	Monthly	Co-management of the Parangarahu Lakes with Taranaki Whānui including governance and operations
Te Awa Kairangi Subcommittee	Six-weekly	FMP and wider catchment-based governance with mana whenua partners HCC, UHCC, WWL
Seaview Rōpū	Monthly	Wastewater issues mana whenua partners HCC, UHCC, WWL
Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara Strategy Group	Monthly	Strategy review and management with Zealandia, WCC, mana whenua, WWL, community members

Wellington Catchment Collective Te Hononga ki te Upoko	Six-weekly	Meetings and hikoī to catchments around the motu with 45+ community groups
Catchment groups	As scheduled	Including Waiwhetū, Horokiwi, Houghton Bay

Table 4: Collective action conversations on WIP implementation

The challenge of improving urban streams – Waiwhetū FMU



Figure 12: Hon Chris Bishop, MP for Hutt South and member of the Friends of the Waiwhetū, at a stream cleanup in May 2024.

62. Te Mahere Wai and the Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP emphasise the significance of the Waiwhetū stream, aquifer and estuary, and include numerous recommendations for restoring their health and protecting the health of the community. The Waiwhetū Aquifer supplies up to 70% of Wellington metropolitan region’s drinking water.
63. Waiwhetū stream is identified as Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa in Schedule B of the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) for TRoTR and Taranaki Whānui. It has sustained iwi over many centuries, with Waiwhetū Pā and Owhiti Pā being two important pā on the awa (Schedule C4 in the NRP). Waiwhetū Stream and the Waiwhetū Estuary were vital sources of mahinga kai and freshwater.
64. The Waiwhetū Estuary has significant indigenous biodiversity values (Schedule F4 in the NRP) and is one of very few inanga spawning sites in Wellington Harbour (Schedule F4 in the NRP).
65. The Waiwhetū Stream is highly valued by many in the local community, and considerable investment in restoration has been undertaken in recent years by the

Friends of the Waiwhetū, mana whenua and councils. The Friends of the Waiwhetū work involves:

- a Winter planting – thousands of plants
 - b Monthly weed maintenance – Weed Warriors with over 200 hours recorded in the last 12 months
 - c Rubbish removal (105 large rubbish bags in 2024 – down from 180-250 in previous years)
 - d Checking pest traps
 - e Stream and fish monitoring – citizen science.
 - f Cape Pondweed patrols. The Friends eradicated Cape Pondweed in 2014 after being present for over 100 years. No plants were found in 2024. The eradication of this plant has helped the return of the gravel bottom and significantly reduced sediment.
66. In August 2024, a group of 30 rangatahi spent a week planting 500 harakeke (flax) along Waiwhetū Stream. Gracefield School pupils have also planted hundreds of native species along the stream.
67. Despite these efforts, water quality in the stream is still extremely poor. Much of the Waiwhetū Stream is heavily channelised and polluted, with it being assessed in Te Mahere Wai as wai kino (dangerous/polluted) due to high levels of *E.coli*.
68. One source of the pollution is linked to the wastewater network where, in both dry weather and wet weather, discharges enter the stream, particularly through the stormwater network.



Figure 13: Location of the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant wastewater discharge to the Waiwhetū Stream.

69. Treated wastewater is also discharged to the Waiwhetū Stream when the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant is beyond capacity. This can be due to stormwater

overloading the plant, the reduced capacity of the main outfall pipe, or during breakages in the network, such as that occurred in August 2024 at Days Bay.

70. Faecal indicator bacteria concentrations in the treated wastewater from the treatment plant have been significantly elevated over the last four years. There were 12 discharge events to the Waiwhetū Stream in the 2023-2024 compliance period. The discharge from the treatment plant to the Waiwhetū Stream is treated to a standard suitable for a coastal environment.
71. PC1 incorporates targets from the WIP and Te Mahere for the Waiwhetū Stream. PC1 requires that Freshwater Action Plans be developed for the Waiwhetū Stream for macroinvertebrates, deposited fine sediment, dissolved oxygen, dissolved reactive phosphorus, dissolved copper, and dissolved zinc.
72. There is concern that the expectations of mana whenua and community for a healthy stream and estuary are unlikely to be achieved without significant investment in the wastewater network. Concerns have also been raised regarding the increased risk of E.coli to the Waiwhetū aquifer. The wastewater network is also subject to pressure from development in the Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata. Mana whenua, the Hutt Valley councils and WWL have formed a rōpū to review the issues with the wastewater network and expect to make recommendations to councils in 2025. Greater Wellington supports the rōpū. Progress will also be linked to the Government's Local Water Done Well programme.
73. WWL references Te Mahere Wai and the WIP as drivers for change in the Waiwhetū Stream².

Parangarahu Lakes



Figure 14: Rōpu Tiaki planting day at Parangarahu Lakes, July 2024.

74. The Parangarahu Lakes are co-managed with Taranaki Whānui and Greater Wellington through Rōpū Tiaki. Te Mahere Wai added ten recommendations for the

² <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/resources/topic/wastewater/monitoring-and-testing/waiwhetu-catchment-sampling/>

Lakes, eight of which are being implemented through the Rōpū. A 500-year vision for the lakes is under development.

75. The area around the lakes has been split into plots for restoration, with thousands of native plants planted this year. Recent restoration effort includes improvements to the northern boundary fence which more effectively excludes stock, contributing to a reduction in grazing of native species.
76. Kākahi (freshwater mussels) have been found in high density groups in Lake Kohangapiripiri. Work is also being undertaken to improve fish passage and connectivity by replacing both the lakes' culverts. These are due to be completed in the 2025/26 financial year. Assessments are underway into the growth of shortfin tuna collected as part of a regional eel growth study.

Wellington City Council

77. The attachment for Te Whanganui-a-Tara includes updates from WCC to WIP and Te Mahere Wai recommendations.
78. “Fix our water infrastructure and improve the health of waterways” has been identified as a strategic priority in WCC’s Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024-34.
79. In recent years, WCC has significantly increased funding for water infrastructure and pipes. WCC’s 2024-34 LTP provides funding for WWL of \$1.8 billion over the next 10 years, a 68% increase from the last LTP, as at date of this report.
80. A range of Whaitua recommendations has been completed or progressed, including through updates to the District Plan, particularly in the Three Waters, Natural Hazards, and Subdivision chapters. Further detail is provided in the comments for each relevant recommendation in the attachment.
81. For several other recommendations, conversations are underway with stakeholders across WCC, including in the Parks, Sports and Recreation and Waste, Water and Resilience areas. Further work is required to assess each recommendation and the budget, resource and work programme implications of implementation. Once known, these factors will need to be considered by WCC.
82. It is anticipated that WCC’s response to some recommendations will be impacted by the progress of the Government’s Local Water Done Well programme.

Hutt City Council

83. This report does not include recommendation-by-recommendation updates from HCC over and above the detailed update they provided in the November 2023 report.
84. The Hutt City Council Long Term Plan includes three waters investment of \$1.6 billion. This includes an asset renewal programme of \$824 million with additional investments for reservoirs, works to reduce flooding risks, works to improve environmental water quality, and introduction of water meters. This expenditure is supported by Government’s Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (stormwater and wastewater) for key projects.

Upper Hutt City Council

85. This report does not include an additional update from UHCC.
86. UHCC has committed a combined operational and capital expenditure for stormwater, wastewater and drinking water supply investment of \$687.4 million in their latest Long Term Plan. This is almost 47% of the total Council expenditure over the ten years. Of this, \$173 million is going to a wastewater treatment renewals programme.

Wairarapa Coast Catchment

Supporting landowner-led actions plans and community organising³.



Figure 15: Richard Johns highlights the strong foundation laid by previous catchment group programmes and the exciting journey ahead for the new Wairarapa Collective.

87. The inaugural annual general meeting (AGM) of the new Wairarapa Catchment Collective (held in Masterton in May 2024) attracted more than 50 representatives from catchment groups, rural industries, and environmental organisations.
88. Project Lead Kirsty McCarthy and Partnership Lead John Hart shared the plan for collaborating with key partners like Greater Wellington, Mountains to Sea Wellington, and the Ministry for Primary Industries. Together, the collective and wider partnership aims to provide joined-up advice, essential services and support to catchment groups in the Wairarapa.

³ The Wairarapa Catchment Collective covers all of the Wairarapa

89. Greater Wellington is working in partnership with the Collective to support groups across the Wairarapa. Catchment action planning is a key service Greater Wellington is providing to catchment groups. The purpose of the partnership is to reduce duplication of services by multiple agencies and work together to ensure groups get the support they need that is also connected to wider catchment outcomes.

Wairarapa Coast Whaitua development

90. The Wairarapa Coast Whaitua is the last whaitua to be completed in the Wellington Region. The Government has extended the December 2024 deadline to December 2027. Implications of this new timeframe and incoming changes to the NPS-FM are currently being considered.
91. For the Wairarapa Coast Whaitua, a different approach to the previous Whaitua processes is proposed. The proposed approach is designed to take a whole of the catchment perspective with the intent to develop an implementation-led catchment plan that is broader in focus. It would bring together hapū and iwi values with the rural catchment community visions and outcomes to inform decisions based on sub-catchment priorities.
92. This catchment plan would encompass other related activities, e.g., freshwater action plans, farm plans, community catchment action plans. Work is underway on how these examples could be woven together in an integrated plan and connected process or processes, which can then be tested against NPS-FM requirements in due course. The approach will also take on board lessons from Kāpiti and other Whaitua processes.
93. The Environment Restoration Incentive Programs have successfully facilitated the planting of approximately 39,000 seedlings in the Wairarapa Coast Whaitua, comprising 30,000 exotic and 9,000 native species. This effort primarily took place in erosion-prone hill country and was funded through the Wellington Region Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI). The majority of available Poplar and Willow poles were planted in the Wairarapa coast for erosion control, with a total of 7,570 planted in this area.
94. In response to the cyclones of 2023, a large-scale restoration project is now underway on the Whareama River. Eighteen sites have been identified due to their vulnerability to erosion and their proximity to critical infrastructure. This initiative is being co-funded by Greater Wellington and Masterton District Council, with plans to plant approximately 30,000 native seedlings during the winter of 2025 to restore these sensitive areas.

Te Kāpiti Whaitua

95. The Kāpiti Whaitua Implementation Programme and draft section 32 content was presented to the Council on 10 September 2024 at a special meeting held at Raukawa Marae.



Figure 16: Council receiving Kāpiti Whaitua Implementation Programme

96. A video of He karakia mō te wai⁴ - our call to action was produced in the three official languages of NZ.
97. A constructive debrief of the Kāpiti Whaitua process was held on 21 October 2024. The debrief was led by an independent facilitator, Tina Porou. Present at the meeting were Whaitua committee members and kaimahi from KCDC and Greater Wellington.
98. Work is underway to begin feasibility assessments and analysis of recommendations in the report for prioritising regulatory and on-regulatory mahi. The process is to work with KCDC and mana whenua leaders to consolidate recommendations for omotoa (progression). A larger piece of work will need to be undertaken over the upcoming year to fully assess feasibility of the more complex recommendations.

Ngā hua ahumoni

Financial implications

99. There are no new financial implications arising from this report as work programmes giving effect to WIP recommendations as reported are covered by existing funding.
100. Regulatory components of WIPs will continue to inform plan change programmes as and when these are progressed against the backdrop of changing national direction.

⁴ <https://www.gw.govt.nz/environment/freshwater/protecting-the-waters-of-your-area/whaitua-kapiti/>

101. Non-regulatory elements will continue to be prioritised and resourced through the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan processes and internal change control management considerations as part of wider funding and prioritisation requirements.

Ngā Take e hāngai ana te iwi Māori

Implications for Māori

102. Greater Wellington recognises the need for Tiriti analysis and broader outcomes on matters affecting mana whenua partnerships including Māori rights and interests. Report writers are working with Te Hunga Whiriwhiri to apply these considerations in a pragmatic way while providing robust analysis on priorities for mana whenua. This will deliver a more cohesive approach to this report section.

103. The report demonstrates through its reporting and case studies areas where it is working with mana whenua. This reporting updates progress made on direction for freshwater management that was given by mana whenua through the WIP recommendations, including the Ngāti Toa Statement and Te Mahere Wai o te Kahui Taiao.

Ngā tūāoma e whai ake nei

Next steps

104. These progress reports will be published on the Greater Wellington website.

105. A new categorisation method will be considered to better present implementation progress against objectives in the WIPs.

106. The next progress report will be provided in June 2025.

107. The team will continue to provide updates on WIP implementation progress through internal business planning and prioritisation processes, as well as gathering input from external groups implementing recommendations.

Ngā āpitihanga

Attachments

Number	Title
1	Ruamāhanga WIP – Progress by Individual Recommendation
2	Te Awarua-o-Porirua WIP and Ngāti Toa Statement– Progress by Individual Recommendation
3	Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP and Te Mahere Wai – Progress by Individual Recommendation
4	Whaitua Implementation PowerPoint presentation

Ngā kaiwaitohu

Signatories

Writers	Mikaila Ceelen – Advisor Catchment
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	Tim Sharp – Catchment Manager, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Pete Huggins – Catchment Manager, Ruamāhanga Jimmy Young – Catchment Manager, Te Awarua-o-Porirua Michele Frank – Catchment Manager, Kāpiti Tash Styles – Catchment Manager, Wairarapa Coast
Approvers	Nicola Patrick – Director, Catchment Fathima Iftikar – Acting Group Manager, Environment

**He whakarāpopoto i ngā huritaonga
Summary of considerations**

Fit with Council's roles or with Committee's terms of reference

The Environment Committee has a responsibility to review periodically the effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council's environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, initiatives and indicators.

Contribution to Annual Plan / Long Term Plan / Other key strategies and policies

Implementing WIPs is a core activity in the Long Term Plan for Rōpū Taiao Environment Group.

Internal consultation

This report and its attachments has been led by Catchment, supported by Te Hunga Whiriwhiri.

All business units in Rōpū Taiao Environment Group and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri have contributed to the report as implementation requires work from across the groups.

Risks and impacts - legal / health and safety etc.

There is environmental, human health, reputational and legal risk if the WIPs are not implemented to restore freshwater habitats in the Greater Wellington region. Environmental risks include continued decline of water quality and biodiversity, impacting the health and lifecycles of freshwater and marine species. Human health risks are associated with heavily contaminated waterbodies where people recreate and gather mahinga kai. Reputational risk includes that our mana whenua partners and communities consider that implementation has not been given sufficient priority, given the time, knowledge and direction provided in the WIPs. Council is at legal risk if the statutory obligations of the NPS-FM 2020 are not met.