

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (updated August 2017)

AA. Te Mana o te Wai Objective AA1

To consider and recognise Te Mana o te Wai in the management of fresh water.

A. WATER QUALITY

Objective A1

To safeguard:

- a) *the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems, of fresh water; and*
- b) *the health of people and communities, at least as affected by secondary contact with fresh water;*

in sustainably managing the use and development of land, and of discharges of contaminants.

Objective A2

The overall quality of fresh water within a region is maintained or improved while:

- a) *protecting the significant values of outstanding freshwater bodies;*
- b) *protecting the significant values of wetlands; and*
- c) *improving the quality of fresh water in water bodies that have been degraded by human activities to the point of being over-allocated.*

Objective A4

To enable communities to provide for their economic well-being, including productive economic opportunities, in sustainably managing freshwater quality, within limits.

Policy A3

By regional councils:

- a) *imposing conditions on discharge permits to ensure the limits and targets specified pursuant to Policy A1 and Policy A2 can be met; and*
- b) *where permissible, making rules requiring the adoption of the best practicable option to prevent or minimise any actual or likely adverse effect on the environment of any discharge of a contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.*

Policy A4 and direction (under section 55) to regional councils

By every regional council amending regional plans (without using the process in Schedule 1 to the extent needed to ensure the plans include the following policy to apply until any changes under Schedule 1 to give effect to Policy A1 and Policy A2 (freshwater quality limits and targets) have become operative:

1. *“When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:*
 - a. *the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the life-supporting capacity of fresh water including on any ecosystem associated with fresh water and*

- b. *the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effect on fresh water, and on any ecosystem associated with fresh water, resulting from the discharge would be avoided.*
2. *When considering any application for a discharge the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:*
 - a. *the extent to which the discharge would avoid contamination that will have an adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their contact with fresh water; and*
 - b. *the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any more than minor adverse effect on the health of people and communities as affected by their contact with fresh water resulting from the discharge would be avoided.*
3. *is policy applies to the following discharges (including a discharge by any person or animal):*
 - a. *a new discharge or*
 - b. *a change or increase in any discharge – of any contaminant into fresh water, or onto or into land in circumstances that may result in that contaminant (or, as a result of any natural process from the discharge of that contaminant, any other contaminant) entering fresh water.*
4. *Paragraph 1 of this policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011.*
5. *Paragraph 2 of this policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 takes effect.”*

B. WATER QUANTITY

Objective B1

To safeguard the life-supporting capacity, ecosystem processes and indigenous species including their associated ecosystems of fresh water, in sustainably managing the taking, using, damming, or diverting of fresh water.

Objective B4

To protect significant values of wetlands and of outstanding freshwater bodies.

Objective B5

To enable communities to provide for their economic well-being, including productive economic opportunities, in sustainably managing fresh water quantity, within limits.

Policy B7 and direction (under section 55) to regional councils

By every regional council amending regional plans (without using the process in Schedule 1) to the extent needed to ensure the plans include the following policy to apply until any changes under Schedule 1 to give effect to Policy B1 (allocation limits), Policy B2 (allocation), and Policy B6 (over-allocation) have become operative:

1. *When considering any application the consent authority must have regard to the following matters:*
 - a. *the extent to which the change would adversely affect safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of fresh water and of any associated ecosystem and*

- b. *the extent to which it is feasible and dependable that any adverse effect on the life- supporting capacity of fresh water and of any associated ecosystem resulting from the change would be avoided.*
- 2. *is policy applies to:*
 - a. *any new activity and*
 - b. *change in the character, intensity or scale of any established activity – that involves any taking, using, damming or diverting of fresh water or draining of any wetland which is likely to result in any more than minor adverse change in the natural variability of flows or level of any fresh water, compared to that which immediately preceded the commencement of the new activity or the change in the established activity (or in the case of a change in an intermittent or seasonal activity, compared to that on the last occasion on which the activity was carried out).*
- 3. *is policy does not apply to any application for consent first lodged before the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 took effect on 1 July 2011.”*

Policy B8

By every regional council considering, when giving effect to this national policy statement, how to enable communities to provide for their economic well-being, including productive economic opportunities, while managing within limits.

C. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

Objective C1

To improve integrated management of fresh water and the use and development of land in whole catchments, including the interactions between fresh water, land, associated ecosystems and the coastal environment.

Policy C1

By every regional council managing fresh water and land use and development in catchments in an integrated and sustainable way, so as to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, including cumulative effects.

D. TANGATA WHENUA ROLES AND INTERESTS

Objective D1

To provide for the involvement of iwi and hapū, and to ensure that tāngata whenua values and interests are identified and reflected in the management of fresh water including associated ecosystems, and decision-making regarding freshwater planning, including on how all other objectives of this national policy statement are given effect to.