

# Proposed Visions, Values, Environmental Outcomes for the Wairau FMU

(As at October 2023 based only on community feedback after the first round of community engagement, as such this does not include tangata whenua visions, values and environmental outcomes, these we be included in 2024)

WAIRAU FMU		
<b>Visions</b>		
<p>The Wairau River and its tributaries, the Wairau Aquifer and Wairau Plain Springs are protected and enhanced continuing to be highly valued throughout Marlborough for the wide range of benefits they bring to the region.</p> <p>The health of the waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems are maintained, protected, and enhanced for current and future generations. Freshwater and riparian habitats are restored, enhanced and protected. The outstanding natural and scenic values of the Wairau FMU are maintained and protected from degradation.</p> <p>The Wairau Aquifer and the Tuamarina Aquifer continue to be recognised and protected as the source of drinking water for the Wairau FMU communities and the Picton and Waikawa communities in the Marlborough Sounds Complex FMU respectively. The viability of community and stock drinking water supply is ongoing into the future.</p> <p>The area continues to be used for recreational purposes, mahinga kai and food gathering, and hydro-electricity generation through the Branch River Power Scheme and Waihopai Power Station.</p> <p>Rivers are performing their natural function of moving water from the mountains and land to the ocean. Pest and weeds are managed within catchments and together with sustainable gravel management, flood damage is minimised.</p> <p>The productive landscape of the Wairau continues to provide for the economic wellbeing of the community. The Wairau River, Wairau Aquifer and the Waihopai River are recognised as important sources of irrigation water to the community now and into the future, within the bounds of waterbody and ecosystem health. Storage of water continues to provide an effective response to seasonal water availability issues, contributing to a resilient economy and community.</p> <p>There are healthy freshwater systems, a resilient wider environment, and communities that live and work sustainably with freshwater bodies and ecosystems.</p>		
Values	Value description	Environmental Outcomes
<b>1 - Ecosystem Health</b>	Healthy freshwater ecosystems sustaining indigenous aquatic life expected in the absence of human disturbance or alteration.	The five biophysical components that contribute to freshwater ecosystem health are managed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Water quality – Freshwater quality supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems.</li> <li>b. Water quantity – Waterbody flows and levels, including variability, supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems.</li> <li>c. Habitat – The extent, form and structure of waterbodies including their bed, banks and margins are maintained, protected and enhanced, including riparian vegetation. Restoring, retaining and maintaining connections to and between channels, floodplain, wetlands and groundwater including refuges to enable recolonisation following disturbance.</li> <li>d. Aquatic Life – Waterbodies and their margins support and sustain abundant, healthy and diverse biota, including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish and birds. Indigenous ecosystems are thriving, and populations are resilient to disturbance including changing climatic patterns.</li> <li>e. Ecological Processes – Healthy functioning ecological process occur in waterbodies and their margins, including primary production, nutrient cycling, trophic connectivity as well as life cycle functions such as feeding, migration, reproduction.</li> </ul>
<b>2 - Human Contact</b>	<p>Waterbodies support people being able to connect with the water through a range of activities, including swimming, paddling, tubing, kayaking, boating, jet boating, jet skiing, fishing, mahinga kai and food gathering.</p> <p>The quality of freshwater entering into the coastal marine environment at the Wairau Diversion does not affect people being able to undertake surfing</p>	Waterbodies can be enjoyed and are safe for people to connect with through a range of recreational activities, including swimming, paddling, tubing, kayaking, boating, jet boating, jet skiing, fishing, mahinga kai and food gathering, surfing at the Wairau Diversion.
<b>3 - Threatened Species</b>	Critical habitats and ecosystem health necessary to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of a population threatened species. Species specifically identified for the Wairau FMU – further information to come.	Habitats of threatened species and conditions necessary to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery are protected and improved. Habitats for species identified for the Wairau FMU are protected and enhanced.
<b>4 - Mahinga Kai</b>	<p>Kai is safe to harvest and eat and the mauri of the place is intact.</p> <p>Mahinga kai generally refers to freshwater species that have traditionally been used as food, tools, or other resources. It also refers to the places those species are found and to the act of catching or harvesting them. Customary resources are available for use, with</p>	Kai is safe to harvest and eat and the mauri of the place is intact. Customary resources are available for use, with customary practices able to be exercised to the extent desired, and tikanga and preferred methods able to be practised. Transfer of knowledge can occur including the species / resource location, harvesting, preparation, storage and cooking of kai.

	customary practices able to be exercised to the extent desired, and tikanga and preferred methods able to be practised. Transfer of knowledge can occur about the preparation, storage and cooking of kai.	
<b>5 - Natural form and character</b>	The very high natural character of the Upper Wairau River (from source to Bull Paddock Stream), the Branch River (above the weir), the Leatham and the Goulter Rivers. The high natural character of the Upper Wairau River between Bull Paddock Stream to Branch River, Wye River, Top Valley Stream, Onamalutu River and Taylor River above the dam.	The very high natural character of the Upper Wairau River (from source to Bull Paddock Stream), the Branch River (above the weir), the Leatham and the Goulter Rivers are protected. The high natural character of the Upper Wairau River between Bull Paddock Stream to Branch River, Wye River, Top Valley Stream, Onamalutu River and Taylor River above the dam are protected.
<b>6 – Drinking Water</b>	The groundwater of the Wairau Aquifer and other freshwater bodies within the Wairau FMU are used for drinking water supply for communities within the FMU including Blenheim, Renwick and Wairau Valley municipal supplies. The groundwater within the Tuamarina Catchment within the Wairau FMU is used for drinking water supply for the Picton and Waikawa municipal supply situated in the Marlborough Sounds Complex FMU.	Groundwater quality and quantity of the Wairau Aquifer and other freshwater bodies within the Wairau FMU are sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply for communities within the Wairau FMU including Blenheim, Renwick and Wairau Valley municipal supplies, with minimal treatment to meet Drinking Water Standards. Groundwater quality and quantity within the Tuamarina Catchment is sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply for the Picton and Waikawa municipal supply situated in the Marlborough Sounds Complex FMU, with minimal treatment to meet Drinking Water Standards. Allocation of water for domestic and community water supplies is prioritised over other water uses.
<b>7 - Wai tapu</b>	Places where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua.	Places where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment. The features and unique properties of the wai and identified taonga in the wai are protected.
<b>8 – Transport and Tauranga waka</b>	Places where waka and watercraft are launched and appropriate places for waka to land.	Part of the FMU is navigable for identified means of transport and places are available and appropriate to launch and land waka and watercraft.
<b>9 - Fishing</b>	Trout and salmon where they are currently present, including the Argyle Pond.	Where trout and salmon are present, habitat is suitable, including minimum flows, and they are safe to it. Waterbodies free of introduced fish species are protected and remain this way with native species thriving.
<b>10 – Hydro-electric power generation</b>	The Branch River Power Scheme including the Argyle Pond and Waihopai Power Station.	Water quality, quantity, hydraulic gradient and flow rates are suitable for hydro-electric power generation at the Branch River Power Scheme including the Argyle Pond and Waihopai Power Station on the Waihopai River.

<b>11 - Animal Drinking Water</b>	Water quality and quantity meets the needs of farmed animals, including being palatable and safe.	Drinking water for farmed animals is safe and palatable, being available to meets the needs of farmed animals, including allocation during droughts to provide for animal welfare.
<b>12 - Irrigation / Cultivation / Production of Food and Beverages</b>	Water quantity is suitable for irrigation needs, including supporting the cultivation of food and beverage crops, the production of food from farmed animals, non-food crops such as fibre, and pasture. The South Valleys Irrigation Scheme (SVIS) provides irrigation water to horticultural, farming and rural residential properties.	Within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits, water is available to support irrigation needs for the cultivation of food and beverage crops, the production of food from farmed animals, non-food crops such as fibre, and pasture. The South Valleys Irrigation Scheme (SVIS) continues to provide irrigation water to horticultural, farming and rural residential properties within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits.
<b>13 – Commercial and Industrial Use</b>	Water quality and quantity can provide for commercial and industrial activities providing economic opportunities for people, business and industries, including the Riverlands and Cloudy Bay Industrial Estates.	Water quality is suitable for commercial and industrial use activities, with allocation related to efficient use requirements supporting economic opportunities for people, business and industries, including in including the Riverlands and Cloudy Bay Industrial Estates, within waterbody and ecosystem limits.
<b>14 – Recreation and Amenity</b>	The outstanding natural features and landscape of the upper Wairau River Valley. The Wairau River and its margins including Spring Creek High Amenity Landscape. The Wairau Dry Hills Amenity Landscape and the Outstanding Natural Feature of the Wairau Lagoons. Recreational activities can take place adjacent to waterways, that do not involve direct water immersion, including walking, biking, camping, picnicking, and four-wheel driving.	The outstanding natural features and landscape of the upper Wairau River Valley are protected. The Wairau River and its margins including Spring Creek High Amenity Landscape, and the Wairau Dry Hills Amenity Landscape and the Outstanding Natural Feature of the Wairau Lagoons are protected. Waterbodies are desirable to be close to and access to waterbody margins is maintained and enhanced, supporting a range of opportunities for recreational activities to take place close to waterbodies, including walking, biking, camping, picnicking, and four-wheel driving, except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological or cultural values are at risk.
<b>15 – Access</b>	Public access to waterbodies and their margins is maintained and enhanced, subject to landowner permission if access over private land is required and except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological or cultural values are at risk. Access is maintained to waterbodies easily accessible to the community including Taylor River, Wairau River, Waihopai River, Omaka River, Spring Creek.	Public access to waterbodies and their margins easily accessible to the community including Taylor River, Wairau River, Waihopai River, Omaka River, Spring Creek is maintained and enhanced, subject to landowner permission if access over private land is required and except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological or cultural values are at risk.
<b>16 - Groundwater</b>	The Wairau Aquifer and other aquifers within the Wairau FMU. The connection between the Wairau River, Wairau Aquifer and the Wairau Plain Springs.	The quality and quantity of groundwater in the Wairau FMU is protected and enhanced. The interconnectedness of the Wairau River recharging the Wairau Aquifer and resulting in the Wairau Plain Springs is recognised and protected, maintained and enhanced. Integrated management is occurring to maintain and enhance the Wairua River, Aquifer and Springs system.

<p><b>17 – Flood Management</b></p>	<p>Rivers can perform their natural function of moving water from the headwaters and land to the ocean, particularly when in flood. Flood damage is minimised.</p>	<p>Rivers are performing their natural function of moving water from the headwaters and land to the ocean, particularly when in flood. Wetlands assist in minimising flood damage together with river channels clear of weeds and debris. Flood protection schemes and active management reduce the risk of flooding hazard.</p>
<p><b>18 – Gravel</b></p>	<p>Removal of gravel in areas where it is building up assists in reducing flood damage. Gravel is available and valued as a resource for the construction and maintenance of roads and use by other industries.</p>	<p>Gravel resources are managed as part of flood management to reduce flood damage as well as supporting economic opportunities except where ecosystem health, natural values and cultural values are adversely affected, in particular with consideration of the recharge area.</p>