Awatere FMU updated proposed community long-term visions, values, and environmental outcomes

Long-term visions
The health of Awatere waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems, including threatened and taonga species, are maintained, protected, and enhanced, now and into the future. Freshwater and riparian habitats such as the braided riverbeds are restored, enhanced and protected. There are healthy freshwater systems, a resilient wider environment, and thriving communities which are connected to the Awatere River and its tributaries, ki uta ki tai. Areas of natural form and character such as the outstanding natural features, outstanding natural landscapes, and high amenity landscapes in the Awatere FMU are maintained and protected from degradation. The area continues to be used for recreational purposes, mahinga kai gathering, and white baiting. Pests and weeds are effectively managed throughout the catchment. The Black Birch Stream continues to be recognised and protected as the source of drinking water for the community. The viability of community and stock drinking water supply is ongoing into the future. The Awatere River is recognised as the essential source of irrigation water for the economic and social wellbeing of 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 an economy and community which are resilient to climate change. The Awatere community recognises that freshwater resources underpin the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of the wider community. The community is empowered to learn about and celebrate freshwater resources and treat them with care and respect, leading to their long-term viability and ongoing resilience to climate change.

Value	Value description	Environmental Outcome
Ecosystem Health	Freshwater ecosystems, including riparian habitats and receiving environments, are valued for their indigenous aquatic life.	The five biophysical components that contribute to freshwater ecosystem health are managed. a. Water quality – Freshwater quality supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems. b. Water quantity – Waterbody flows and levels, including variability, supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems. 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 , underpinned by effective pest and weed management throughout the catchment. 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. 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. Healthy habitats and freshwater ecosystems are found in the rivers, streams, and wetlands in the Awatere FMU including the Awatere River.
Human contact	Waterbodies are valued so that people can connect with water through a range of activities, particularly near the State Highway 1 bridge, including swimming, and a limited amount of kayaking and jet boating, when flows or levels are suitable.	Waterbodies can be enjoyed and are safe for people to connect with through a range of recreational activities, ki uta ki tai, subject to landowner permission if access over private land is required. Activities including swimming, kayaking and jet boating, particularly near the State Highway 1 bridge, are enjoyed when flows or levels are suitable.
Threatened species	Critical habitats, conditions, and ecosystem health are valued to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of threatened species	Freshwater and riparian 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 Awatere FMU are protected and

	populations. Species identified for the Awatere FMU – further information to come.	enhanced, underpinned by effective pest and weed management throughout the catchment.
Mahinga Kai	Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this value description. Kai is safe to harvest and eat and the mauri of the place is intact. 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 customary practices able to be exercised to the extent desired, and tikanga and preferred methods able to be practiced. Transfer of knowledge can occur about the preparation, storage and cooking of kai.	Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this outcome. 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. Access over private land is subject to landowner permission where required.
Food and Resource Gathering (new addition)	This value refers to both the physical food and resources themselves, as well as the places these materials are found and the ability for everyone in the community to interact with and gather them.	Food and resources are safe to be harvested and eaten and the health of the place is intact, 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.
Natural Form and Character	The outstanding natural landscapes and features in this FMU, as well as areas of high amenity landscape values, are valued for their natural form and character - the degree of naturalness and natural qualities including the natural elements, patterns, process and experiential attributes of the environment. Note: in modified waterbodies, the Marlborough community values what remains of the natural form and character.	The outstanding natural landscapes, outstanding natural features, and areas with high amenity landscape values identified in the FMU (such as the Upper Awatere Valley and Awatere River) are protected, underpinned by effective pest and weed management throughout the catchment. Note: In modified waterbodies, the remaining natural form and character is protected and enhanced where practicable.

Drinking Water Supply	Black Birch Stream is valued as a source of drinking water.	Black Birch Stream water quality and quantity is sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply, with minimal treatment to meet Drinking Water Standards. Allocation of water for domestic and community water supplies is prioritised over other water uses.
Wai Tapu	Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this value description. The historic well-used system of ara tawhito (trails) connecting coastal settlements through the interior across to the West Coast and to the south, which included resting places, mahinga kai, and burial sites which have special significance to tangata whenua.	Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this outcome. The historic well-used system of ara tawhito (trails) connecting coastal settlements through the interior across to the West Coast and to the south, which included resting places, mahinga kai, and burial sites which have special significance to tangata whenua are remembered, preserved and protected. These places are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment, with values, features and unique properties of the wai protected. Other matters may also be important such as no mixing of waters of the wai tapu and identified taonga in the wai are protected. Where land is not held in DoC estate, access is subject to landowner permission if required.
Transport and Tauranga Waka	Not included	Not included
Fishing	Fishing sites are valued for being safe, with high amenity. Habitats which support a range of fish species are valued, enabling a sustainable catch. White baiting at the mouth of the Awatere River is particularly valued.	Fishing sites are safe and have high amenity. The freshwater ecosystem and habitat is healthy, supporting a range of fish species that are appropriate for the catchment with sufficient abundance, size, and range for recreational fishing. White baiting at the mouth of the Awatere River is sustainable, being in sufficient numbers to maintain a thriving population and are safe to be eaten
Hydro-electric Power Generation	Not included	Not included

Animal Drinking Water	Water is valued to meet the reasonable needs of farmed animals.	Water quality and quantity meets the reasonable needs of farmed animals within the bounds of waterbody and ecosystem health, including being palatable and safe, and utilising water storage structures.
Irrigation/Cultivation/Production of Food and Beverages	Water is valued for irrigation - including being enabled by water storage - which supports the cultivation of food and beverage crops, the production of food from farmed animals, non-food crops such as fibre, and pasture.	Within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits, water is of suitable quality 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. There is access to water for storage within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits, to enable irrigation of crops during times of low flows and dry conditions, supporting resilience to climate change.
Commercial and Industrial Use	Water quality and quantity from Black Birch Stream is valued for commercial and industrial activities which provide economic opportunities in Awatere FMU.	Black Birch Stream continues to provide for commercial and industrial requirements and economic opportunities within waterbody and ecosystem limits.
Recreation and Amenity	Recreational activities which take place adjacent to waterways but do not involve direct water immersion are valued, including walking, biking, picnicking, camping, fossil hunting/geology, and four-wheel driving. Locations for these activities including the Upper Awatere River, are also valued.	Waterbodies are desirable to be close to and access to waterbody margins is maintained and enhanced, supporting opportunities for recreational activities to take place close to waterbodies, walking, biking, picnicking, camping, fossil hunting/geology, and four-wheel driving, 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 to Tapuae-O-Uenuku via the Hodder River is maintained. The Upper Awatere Valley and the Awatere River high amenity landscape, including the Molesworth Recreational Reserve is protected.
Access	Public access to waterbodies and their margins is valued. Particularly valued is access to parts of the Awatere River.	Public access to waterbodies and their margins is maintained and enhanced where possible, 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.
Flood Management	Flood Management is not a value of freshwater per se. However, the Marlborough community has identified that Council interventions (such as stop banks) to avoid or mitigate flood events are strongly valued.	Waters move from the headwaters to the ocean, particularly when in flood. Flood management activities occur where necessary and appropriate, to minimise flood hazard risk and to improve resilience to climate change.
Gravel Management	Gravel is valued as a natural part of the waterway. Its removal is also valued for flood management and its use as a construction resource.	Gravel resources are managed to support economic opportunities and enable flood protection, except where ecosystem health, natural values, and cultural values are adversely affected.
Education	Not included	Not included
Groundwater	Not included	Not included