

Environmental Policy & Planning (Freshwater)

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Update on National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) implementation – to June 2023 – (N100-01-04-01)

First Round of Engagement

1. As detailed in the April 2023 Environment and Planning Committee information package the first round of community engagement relating to implementing the NPSFM was extended to the end of the June 2023.
2. This first round of engagement sort to find out where people were interacting with freshwater and the activities they were undertaking; what they valued about freshwater and what their aspirations/visions were for freshwater in the region. Feedback was also sort on the proposed six Freshwater Management Units for the region.
3. At the end of June almost 250 submissions had been received, up from just over 100 at the end of April 2023.
4. Staff are currently working through and analysing the submissions and will provide a full report on all submissions to the next Environment and Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 5th October 2023.

What's Next

5. Over the next month values will be identified for each FMU and proposed community visions and environmental outcomes will be drafted for each FMU.
6. For each value, attributes will be determined with assistance from the Environmental Science team and assessments made against the current state to determine where the greatest focus will need to be to meet environmental outcomes.

Second Round of Engagement

7. Due to the extension of the first round of engagement, the second round of engagement has been moved to start in the first week of November and run for six weeks.
8. This will check in on the FMU values and ask for feedback on the proposed community visions and environmental outcomes.
9. It will also provide the community with an opportunity to see how values will be measured, through attributes, what our current state of the environment is in relation to the NPSFM limits and what areas will need to be targeted for improvements.

Engagement with Tangata whenua

10. Engagement work is also continuing through the Te Puna Kōrero ki Te Tauihu group with the eight Te Tau Ihu Iwi where we are moving into a wānanga / discussion phase exploring what Te Mana o te Wai means in Te Tau Ihu and working at having a shared understating of the NPSFM with a focus on Mahinga kai, setting freshwater targets and limits and water allocation and use, based around activities. It is anticipated that in the first half of 2024 we will come together to combine community and tangata whenua feedback into policy which will become a variation to the pMEP. Māori
11. Staff are also continuing to work separately with Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Kuri.

Summary

12. Almost 250 submissions were received from community through engagement round one.
13. Next engagement round has been moved to start first week in November for six weeks.
14. Engagement with Marlborough's tangata whenua is continuing.