

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

Long-term visions		
<p>The health of Wairau 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 braided rivers are restored, enhanced and protected, ki uta ki tai and are closely linked with healthy coastal marine receiving environments. There are healthy freshwater systems, a resilient wider environment, and thriving communities which are connected to the Wairau River and its tributaries, ki uta ki tai.</p> <p>Areas of natural form and character such as the outstanding natural features, outstanding natural landscapes, and high amenity landscapes in the Wairau FMU are maintained and protected from degradation.</p> <p>The Wairau Aquifer and other waterbodies continue to be recognised and protected as the source of drinking water for communities in multiple FMU. Aquifers that are sources of drinking water for the communities, including across multiple FMUs, are recognised and protected. 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. Pest and weeds are managed within catchments and together with sustainable gravel management, flood damage is minimised. Waters move from the headwaters to the ocean, particularly when in flood.</p> <p>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 an economy and community that is resilient to climate change.</p> <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 Wairau 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.</p>		
Value	Value description	Environmental Outcome
Ecosystem Health	Freshwater ecosystems, including riparian habitats and receiving environments, are valued for their indigenous aquatic life.	<p>The five biophysical components that contribute to freshwater ecosystem health are managed.</p> <p>a. Water quality –Freshwater quality supports and sustains healthy waterbodies, their freshwater ecosystems and the coastal marine receiving environments.</p>

		<p>b. Water quantity – Waterbody flows and levels, including variability, supports and sustains healthy waterbodies and their freshwater ecosystems.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Healthy habitats and freshwater ecosystems are found in the rivers, streams, and wetlands in the Wairau FMU including the Wairau River.</p>
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Human contact	Waterbodies are valued so that people can connect with water through a range of activities, such as swimming, jet boating, fishing and mahinga kai and food gathering, when flows or levels are suitable. The quality of freshwater entering into the coastal marine environment at the Wairau Diversion does not affect people being able to undertake surfing.	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, paddling, kayaking, fishing, mahinga kai, surfing at the Wairau Diversion, and food gathering, can be enjoyed in a range of different flows or levels.
Threatened species	Critical habitats, conditions, and ecosystem health are valued to support the presence, abundance, survival, and recovery of threatened species populations. Species specifically identified for the Wairau FMU – further information to come.	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 Wairau FMU are protected and enhanced, underpinned by effective pest and weed management throughout the catchment.
Mahinga Kai	<p>Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this value description.</p> <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 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.</p>	<p>Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this outcome.</p> <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. Access over private land is subject to landowner permission where required.</p>
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	<p>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, being the degree of naturalness and natural qualities including the natural elements, patterns, process and experiential attributes of the environment.</p> <p>Note: in modified waterbodies, the Marlborough community values what remains of the natural form and character.</p>	<p>The outstanding natural landscapes, outstanding natural features, and areas with high amenity landscape values identified in the FMU (such as the Upper Wairau River) are protected, underpinned by effective pest and weed management throughout the catchment.</p> <p>Note: In modified waterbodies, the remaining natural form and character is protected and enhanced where practicable.</p>
Drinking Water Supply	<p>The groundwater of the Wairau Aquifer and other freshwater bodies within the Wairau FMU are valued as sources of drinking water for communities within the FMU including Blenheim, Renwick and Wairau Valley municipal supplies. The groundwater within the Tuamarina Catchment within the Wairau FMU is also valued as a source of drinking water supply for the Picton and Waikawa municipal supply situated in the Marlborough Sounds Complex FMU.</p>	<p>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.</p>
Wai Tapu	<p>Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this value description.</p> <p>Places where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua.</p>	<p>Council is currently working with Marlborough tangata whenua iwi on this outcome.</p> <p>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. Access over private land is subject to landowner permission where</p>

		required.
Transport and Tauranga Waka	Places where waka and watercraft are launched and appropriate places for waka to land are valued.	Part of the FMU is navigable for identified means of transport. Places are available and appropriate to launch and land waka and watercraft, subject to permission if access over private land is required.
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. Fishing within the Wairau River is particularly valued.	Fishing sites are safe and have high amenity. The freshwater ecosystem is healthy, supporting a range of fish species that are appropriate for the catchment with sufficient abundance, size, and range for recreational fishing. Waterbodies free of introduced fish species are protected and remain this way with indigenous species thriving. The Wairau River fisheries are sustainable.
Hydro-electric Power Generation	The Branch River Power Scheme and Waihopai Power Station are valued for hydro-electric power generation.	Water quality, quantity, hydraulic gradient, and flow rates are suitable for hydro- electric power generation at the Branch River Power Scheme and Waihopai Power Station on the Waihopai River.
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. The South Valleys Irrigation Scheme (SVIS) is valued for providing irrigation water to horticultural, farming and rural residential properties.	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. The South Valleys Irrigation Scheme (SVIS) continues to provide irrigation water to horticultural, farming and rural residential properties within waterbody and freshwater ecosystem limits. 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 is valued for commercial and industrial activities which provide economic opportunities in this FMU.	Water sources continue 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, geology, and four-wheel driving. Locations for these activities including the upper Wairau River and its margins, the Wairau Dry Hills Amenity Landscape, and the Outstanding Natural Feature of the Wairau Lagoons are also valued.	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, 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. 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.
Access	Public access to waterbodies and their margins is valued. Particularly valued is access to waterbodies including Taylor River, Wairau River, Waihopai River, Omaka River, and Spring Creek.	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	Gravel resources are managed to support economic opportunities and enable flood protection, except where ecosystem health, groundwater recharge,

	its use as a construction resource.	natural values, and cultural values are adversely affected. (redeveloped)
Education	The Taylor River has educational value for stream studies and learning.	The Taylor River continues to be used for education with stream studies and learnings. There is opportunity to explore, investigate and learn about waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems, subject to landowner permission if access is over private land and except where ecosystem health, natural values and cultural values are adversely affected.
Groundwater	Groundwater in the Wairau Aquifer and other aquifers within the Wairau FMU are valued, as are the connections 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.