



# CARING FOR NORTHLAND'S FRESHWATER OUR 10-YEAR PLAN

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Tiakina ngā Wai Māori o Te Tai Tokerau  
Ko tō mātou mahere rautaki tekau tau te roa

**Northland**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL   
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau











*Kei te tangi a Ranginui  
Kei te tangi a Papatūānuku  
Kei te rere ngā roimata  
Rere ki uta. Rere ki tai.  
Kei hea ngā Kaitiaki mō Te Mana o te Wai  
Te Mauri o te Wai?  
Whakarongo mai!  
Whakaoratia!  
Hei oranga wairua!  
Hei oranga tāngata!  
Hei oranga mō Aotearoa katoa*

*Our primordial sky father weeps  
As our earth mother mourns  
Their tears flowing forth manifest in  
the mountain waters that percolate  
down to the sea.  
Where-art the earthly protectors  
of the water's authority?  
The guardians of its essence?  
Pay heed to the abuses of our time and  
reinvigorate the water's power of life  
As sustenance for our spirit  
As wellbeing for our person  
And as health and prosperity  
for a vibrant New Zealand for all.*



# Ngā rārangi take

## Contents

<b>Kia manaakitia ō tātou Wai Māori</b> Protecting our freshwater	02
<b>Ko te tūranga o te kaunihera i ngā mahi whakahaere wai</b> Council's role in managing water	04
<b>Kia ākuhakuhatia te tirohanga Māori</b> Recognising Māori perspectives	06
<b>Ko ngā hononga wai</b> Our interconnected water	08
<b>Ko ngā wero whakahaere Wai Māori</b> Challenges for managing freshwater	10
<b>Ko ā tātou whaingā</b> What we want to achieve	12
<b>Ko ngā Kaupapa rautaki</b> Strategic themes	13
<b>Tā mātou mahi</b> Our actions	14
<b>Ko te tirohanga whānui</b> The bigger picture	22
<b>The freshwater plan change</b> Timeline	23



# Kia manaakitia ō tātou Wai Māori

## Protecting our freshwater

Freshwater is a taonga that we all need to protect. It is the source of all life and underpins our natural environment, our unique culture and the health of our families and communities. It is fundamental to the social and economic activities necessary to maintain and improve our communities and quality of life.

For generations people and enterprise have taken unsustainably from the environment, creating a complex legacy of issues for our freshwater today.

As a regional council it is vital that we, alongside the communities we serve, manage freshwater in an integrated and sustainable way – to restore what is depleted, to act responsibly now, and to protect future generations, and the environment.

We also need to provide for the mana (or authority) of water and its sacred relationship for the wellbeing of Māori.

We acknowledge there are huge changes happening for freshwater management in Aotearoa through the government's Essential Freshwater programme. A key part of Essential Freshwater is the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) which embeds the concept of Te Mana o te Wai in all freshwater planning and identifies four compulsory freshwater values (Ecosystem health, Human contact, threatened species and Mahinga kai) that must be managed. It also sets out the process councils must use to implement the NPS-FM by the end of 2024.

**FOR GENERATIONS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN 'BORROWING' UNSUSTAINABLY FROM THE ENVIRONMENT, CREATING A COMPLEX LEGACY OF ISSUES FOR OUR FRESHWATER TODAY.**

It's not our intention to replicate or pre-empt the outcomes of that mahi in this document. The strands of this work are, however, woven throughout our plans which we'll review and adapt as needed.

In the meantime, we have a huge amount of work underway and planned to protect and improve freshwater in Te Taitokerau – this document maps out our pathway for the next 10 years as committed to in our Long-Term Plan 2021-2031. It will be updated as freshwater planning progresses and after each Long-Term plan to ensure it remains current.

**THIS DOCUMENT MAPS OUT OUR PATHWAY FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS AS COMMITTED TO IN OUR LONG-TERM PLAN**

**2021 – 2031**



# Ko te tūranga o te kaunihera i ngā mahi whakahaere wai

## Council's role in managing water

As a regional council, we're charged with managing freshwater but we don't do this alone. From the hills to our harbours, we work together with iwi and hapū, landowners, communities, and industry to care for and improve our water.

A huge amount of the work we do relates to managing water quality, water quantity and the health of ecosystems within freshwater bodies.

We monitor freshwater state and trends, develop policy and rules, and manage both consenting and compliance for discharges, land use and water takes. We also support a lot of mahi on the ground through our biodiversity, land management and biosecurity programmes.

Having meaningful relationships and partnerships with Māori is critical to how we manage water in Te Taitokerau. It is entrenched in Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi and the legislation we operate under, and our commitment to strong relationships with Māori is embedded as a strategic direction for council.

### HAVING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH MAŌRI IS CRITICAL TO HOW WE MANAGE WATER IN TE TAITOKERAU.

While there's plenty of work happening, we recognise that there is plenty more to do. This document explains where we're focussing our efforts and will help us keep on track as we work towards improving the state of Northland's freshwater.





**AS A COUNCIL  
WE ARE CHARGED  
WITH MANAGING  
FRESHWATER BUT WE  
DON'T DO THIS ALONE**





FRESHWATER IS  
CONSIDERED A  
TAONGA AND MAORI  
ARE THE KAITIAKI





# Kia ākuhakuhatia te tirohanga Māori

## Recognising Māori perspectives

In Te Ao Māori, one of the core values for how Māori connect with the world is kaitiakitanga – protecting and preserving the environment for generations to come. Freshwater is considered a taonga, and Māori are the kaitiaki (guardians) of the natural world including freshwater and the life it supports.

As kaitiaki, Māori are committed to working within communities and applying mātauranga Māori (a deep knowledge based in the Māori world view) to inform the varying iwi and hapū aspirations for water across Te Taitokerau.

**WE RECOGNISE THAT THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MĀORI WORLD VIEW AND HOW COUNCILS OPERATE.**

We recognise that there are fundamental differences between the Māori world view and how councils operate. We won't always agree on how best to get there, but we're committed to working in close partnership along the way – we all want clean, healthy water for Te Taitokerau.

We also acknowledge that Māori have a strong desire to be represented in decision-making on water which to date hasn't been fulfilled. There remain some significant water-related issues for Māori, including ownership and allocation of water (which is a matter between Māori and the Crown) which have yet to be resolved.





# Ko ngā hononga wai

## Our interconnected water

As water travels through the landscape of Te Taitokerau, it is affected by geology, land use, and soils.

Waterbodies of different types are also very much interconnected. Groundwater affects surface water (and vice versa), and the quality of freshwater affects coastal waters in harbours and estuaries.

In Te Ao Māori, the environment is viewed holistically – the moana, whenua, wai and tāngata are all connected by whakapapa.

### IN TE AO MĀORI, THE ENVIRONMENT IS VIEWED HOLISTICALLY – THE MOANA, WHENUA, WAI AND TĀNGATA ARE ALL FROM THE SAME WHAKAPAPA.

#### Rivers and streams – many and varied

Te Taitokerau has many rivers, stemming from over 1400 catchments (the area of land from which rainfall drains into a river).

Our rivers are mostly short and have highly variable flows which are more sensitive to water takes, especially during dry periods when demand for water is high. Most of our river's flow into estuaries or harbours, these areas are more impacted by contaminants like sediment than the coast.

#### Dune lakes – rare and precious

Dune lakes are rare and precious ecosystems on a global scale and Northland is home to more than 400. While water quality and biodiversity are world-class in several of our dune lakes, many others are slowly degrading and need help to recover. They are highly valued for cultural and recreational uses and as water sources for communities and production – they also support a wide range of native plants and animals.

#### Wetlands – kidneys of the earth

Northland's numerous wetlands support a wealth of indigenous habitats and wildlife, and act as 'buffers' or 'sponges' storing and releasing water in times of flood or drought. In the past, many people didn't recognise the true value of wetlands so huge numbers were converted to pasture or urban use.

Like kidneys, most wetlands act as giant filters, helping to soak up water and cleanse the system by breaking down nutrients and trapping sediment.

#### Groundwater – what lies beneath

Groundwater is rainwater that has travelled through the soil to underground aquifers.

Our understanding of groundwater is still growing, and caution is needed so that extraction is sustainable and for coastal aquifers, demand does not lead to saltwater intrusion. Ground water and surface water are also often related, with groundwater feeding rivers, springs, lakes and wetlands which makes a holistic management approach important.

#### Rainfall – an uneven resource

We get plenty of rain in Te Taitokerau (about 1600mm a year on average) but it doesn't always come when or where we want it.

Climate change predictions for our rainfall are that we'll see more extreme weather events – both large storm events, and more frequent and intense drought conditions. Changes in rainfall will affect how much water is available in rivers and aquifers.

#### More information on the state of freshwater in Te Taitokerau is available at:

- » [www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/environmental-data](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/environmental-data)
- » Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA)  
[www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/northland-region](http://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/northland-region)



**NORTHLAND'S  
NUMEROUS WETLANDS  
SUPPORT A WEALTH OF  
INDIGENOUS HABITATS  
AND WILDLIFE.**





# Ko ngā wero whakahaere Wai Māori

## Challenges for managing freshwater

### A legacy of land use: water quality

Our history of land development over generations (often actively encouraged by the government of the day) has had an enormous impact on water quality in Northland. While modern land use and development practices have improved, we are still dealing with the legacy of the past.

Soil loss through erosion is a significant issue in Northland due to the region's terrain and soil types. A history of deforestation means our valuable soils continue to be washed off our hillsides and pour into our waterways.

Sediment is the most widespread contaminant in Northland waterways and its many shallow harbours, smothering precious aquatic habitat and reducing water clarity.

Also, *E. Coli* levels indicates faecal contamination mostly from livestock (and in some cases wildfowl and human sources) is high in many of our waterways, particularly after rain. Nutrients are an issue in places like dune lakes which don't flush like rivers.

For Māori, this legacy of land development has damaged the mauri (life force) of water, affecting their ability to sustain their way of life and undermining the principle of kaitiakitanga.

**IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN  
NORTHLAND IS VERY MUCH A  
MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT, AND  
THE JOURNEY IS WELL UNDERWAY.**

Improving water quality in Northland is very much a marathon, not a sprint, and the journey is well underway. However, the impact of our activities today, both positive and negative, may take years to be reflected in our rivers, lakes, aquifers and wetlands.

### A fine balance: water quantity

Being able to use water is critical to everything we do. We drink it, swim in it, use it to produce food and are culturally connected to it. The productivity of our land and our wider economy depends on it.

Managing water quantity is about striking the right balance between water being taken and used, while ensuring enough remains to support healthy aquatic life, cultural values and recreational use. This is particularly important where there is high demand for water.

Water quantity also needs to be looked at as part of a bigger picture – it's intimately linked with water quality, and often surface water and groundwater are connected too.

Getting the balance right is not easy as there are often competing demands and values for water.

Further, most water takes rely on extraction from natural waterbodies (rather than collecting and storing water when it is plentiful), so reliability of supply is an issue in many areas, especially during dry years and where demand for water is high (areas of high allocation).

We get plenty of rain, but often not when or where it's needed most, which is becoming increasingly challenging for our region's water reliability and can limit economic opportunities and resilience.

In many cases, traditional Māori water resources (such as puna/springs) have been impacted by changes to flows and levels in waterbodies, affecting the ability of Māori to fulfil their obligations of kaitiakitanga and impacting customary uses and the ability to provide water for whanau, papakainga and marae.



### An ideological shift: Te Mana o te Wai

Central government has recognised the national significance of freshwater and Te Mana o te Wai through the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM).

## THE CONCEPT OF TE MANA O TE WAI IS AN IDEOLOGICAL CHANGE IN APPROACH TO FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT.

The concept of Te Mana o te Wai is an ideological change for central and local government in the approach to freshwater management. It puts the health and wellbeing of waterways first, the health needs of people second and the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people third.

Fundamental to Te Mana o te Wai is actively involving tāngata whenua in freshwater management and decision-making processes.

The NPS-FM also places emphasis on the application of matauranga Māori to freshwater management. In Te Taitokerau, the expression of matauranga Māori specific to wai, whenua and moana needs to be considered in the context of iwi and hapū structures.



# Ko ā tātou whaingā

## What we want to achieve

To protect and restore the health and mauri of freshwater, we're working towards a few outcomes. These are shaped by our legal obligations as a regional council, what our communities need and want, and the specific freshwater issues here in Northland.

The government's recent Essential Freshwater policies and regulations, and the concept of Te Mana o te Wai at the centre of it, will require changes across all our activities relating to water. A key tool will be a freshwater plan change which will set the vision and outcomes sought for freshwater and the rules and actions needed to deliver these.

**Healthy waters for our environment and our people.**

**"THE FRESH AND COASTAL WATERS OF TE TAITOKERAU ARE CLEAN AND ABUNDANT, SUPPORTING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE."**

**This is one of longer-term goal from our 2021 Long-Term Plan which underpins everything we do. To move towards this goal, we want to achieve the following over the next 10 years:**

- » Te Mana o te Wai is embedded across all of council's freshwater management activities
- » Opportunities and capacity for Māori participation in decision making and implementation is progressively improved.
- » A new freshwater management plan is developed that sets aspirational outcomes for freshwater and its implementation is well underway.

- » A risk-based monitoring and compliance regime is applied and all community wastewater and stormwater discharges have up-to-date resource consents, and all conditions are met.
- » An improved freshwater monitoring and accounting network is up and running, providing improved understanding and management of freshwater.
- » A refocused landowner advice and grant funding scheme is in place, targeting highly erodible land and protecting our sensitive environments such as dune lakes, wetlands and estuaries.
- » One-third of Northland's high-risk, erosion-prone land is under soil conservation management.
- » Natural wetlands have been identified and protected, restoration and enhancement are proactively encouraged, and the area of wetlands is increasing.
- » The reliability of water supplies continues to improve (especially drinking water) and Northland is more resilient to the effects of climate change and droughts through efficient use and storage of water.
- » Aquatic ecosystems and habitats particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change are identified, and work continues to improve their resilience.
- » Water quantity and quality limits are protecting waterbodies and their ecosystems and providing for the health and wellbeing of communities.



# Ko ngā Kaupapa

## Strategic themes

There are a number of strategic issues for managing freshwater over the next 10 years. We have grouped them into broad themes. These themes are used to categorise our actions over the next 10 years.

### Science and data

our priorities and actions to better understand freshwater, including application of mātauranga Māori and cultural health indicators, monitoring the state, trends, pressures and the effectiveness of any interventions taken to improve the health of our freshwater resources.

### Policy development

The priorities and key steps for developing water related policy and rules and delivering on central government direction.

### Consenting, compliance monitoring and enforcement

The priorities and approaches for ensuring compliance with rules and consent conditions.

### Non-regulatory programmes

Action 'on the ground' to improve the state and resilience of our water resources, including partnerships, advocacy and education.

Oversight of the above will be provided by the Executive Leadership Team with regular reporting on progress to Council.





# Tā mātou mahi | Our actions

## GOALS

Te Mana o te Wai is embedded across all of council's freshwater management activities.

Opportunities and capacity for Māori participation in decision making and implementation is improved.

## CONSENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Continue to improve outcomes for Māori in consent processes (including protocols for engagement by applicants and requirements for cultural impact assessments) and monitor the effectiveness of the measures applied.

Engage with the Tāngata Whenua Water Advisory group (TWWAG) and Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) in development of the freshwater plan change.

Continue to engage with the Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party in relation to freshwater operations (recognising this is a strategic area of focus for the group)

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

By mid-2024 the concept of Te Mana o te Wai and Māori values for water are provided for in the freshwater plan change.

Continue to promote development of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements with iwi/hapu

Tāngata whenua are involved in council decision making of the freshwater plan change.

Tāngata whenua Kaitiaki continue to be supported through partnerships and collaborative projects such as Waimā Waitai Waiora.

In 2024, collaboration with tāngata whenua, identify monitoring measures and matauranga Māori to assess cultural health of waterbodies and the condition of Māori values for water.

## SCIENCE & DATA

By mid-2023 develop draft vision(s) for freshwater.

By mid-2023, a policy is developed to better support tāngata whenua to participate in council's environmental monitoring programme.

Continue to provide funding for tāngata whenua environmental monitoring.

Te Mana o te Wai informs development of freshwater action plans and freshwater improvement projects.

Council continues to lobby for central government funding and support for freshwater improvement and water resilience projects in partnership with Māori.

In collaboration with tāngata whenua, matauranga Māori is applied in freshwater action plans and soil conservation programmes/ freshwater improvement projects.

## NON-REGULATORY

## GOALS

A new freshwater management plan is developed that sets aspirational outcomes for freshwater and its implementation is well underway.

A risk-based monitoring and compliance regime is applied and all community wastewater and stormwater discharges have up-to-date resource consents, and all conditions are met.

## CONSENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

By 2022 a compliance monitoring and enforcement plan is developed to:

- » Improve compliance with wetland disturbance rules
- » Prepare for enforcement of livestock exclusion rules, particularly in relation to swimming sites, municipal drinking water supply catchments and wetlands
- » Assess and record compliance with Freshwater Farm Plan requirements

Continue current monitoring compliance and enforcement activity with a particular focus on:

- » Consents for wastewater treatment plant and stormwater discharges
- » Farm dairy effluent disposal
- » High risk plantation forestry activities Water takes in highly allocated catchments during low flow conditions.
- » Wetland disturbance

By 2025 develop a risk-based compliance monitoring and enforcement plan to support implementation of the freshwater plan change.

By mid-2022 a regime is in place to record information requirements of the NES Freshwater (including nitrogen fertiliser use, fish passage/ in-stream structures) and monitor compliance.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

By early 2023 complete a 5yr review of the Regional Policy Statement (including freshwater related provisions) with input from Māori.

The cost-effectiveness of management scenarios to address key contaminants is assessed.

Engage with tāngata whenua and Primary Sector Liaison Groups in the development of the freshwater plan change (including identification of vision, values, outcomes, limits/targets and associated rules.

By 2030 review the effectiveness and efficiency of regional plan provisions.

## SCIENCE & DATA

Release a Draft Freshwater Plan change for public feedback in early 2023 including rules/policy to achieve freshwater outcomes and target states over time.

Publicly notify a proposed freshwater plan change by mid-2024 that gives effect to the NPS-FM (including a proposed change to the Regional Policy Statement to insert freshwater visions).

By mid-2023 develop draft vision(s) for freshwater

By early 2023 draft freshwater limits are identified for relevant NPS FM attributes.

By 2022 the current/baseline state of NPS FM water quality attributes is identified for rivers and lakes.

Investigations are undertaken in response to deterioration of water quality in a timely manner.

By 2022 water quality models are developed to assess the effectiveness of mitigations for key water quality measures (attributes).

By 2022, additional monitoring needed to implement the NPS FM is in progress.

By late 2025, engage with tāngata whenua and communities to develop and implement action plans that target water quality improvements where freshwater outcomes/target states are not being met.

By mid-2022 guidance is developed to provide advice to landowners on compliance with key water related regional plan/government provisions (such as stock exclusion, wetland, water takes and land disturbance rules).

By late 2025, guidance is provided on compliance with key rules in the freshwater plan change.

## NON-REGULATORY



## GOALS

Water quantity and quality limits are protecting waterbodies and their ecosystems and providing for the health and wellbeing of communities.

An improved freshwater and quantity monitoring and accounting network is up and running, providing improved understanding and management of freshwater.

## CONSENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Continue to use water shortage directions during droughts to restrict non-essential water use in catchments with waterbodies at or below minimum water flow/level limits.

Continue to apply minimum flows/levels and allocation limits in consent conditions.

Appropriate enforcement action is taken to address non-compliance with water quality and quantity limits.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Water quality limits are reflected in consent conditions for new activities (and reviewed consents where applicable) once the freshwater plan is finalised.

Compliance and enforcement activity is prioritised in areas where water quality is deteriorating, and/or limits and target states are not being met due to human activities.

Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes Regulations are actively enforced, and data recorded and used in the accounting system.

By mid-2024 long term vision(s) for freshwater are proposed for inclusion in the Regional Policy Statement.

Revised water quantity limits and allocation regimes (as needed) are identified for priority areas that are fully allocated included in the regional plan.

By mid-2024, freshwater objectives, water quality limits/targets and associated rules are included in the notified freshwater plan change.

## SCIENCE & DATA

By late 2022, the revised freshwater quality monitoring network is in place and can:

- › measure progress towards freshwater outcomes and target states
- › detect deteriorating water quality and when freshwater limits are not met
- › measure effectiveness of interventions to improve water quality.

Initiate investigations in areas where deterioration is detected, while continuing to increase use of telemetry and remote sensing in water quality and quantity monitoring network.

Results of freshwater monitoring and progress towards objectives and targets are publicly reported.

Ongoing review of water quantity limits/allocation regimes in priority catchments with high allocation, so freshwater ecosystems are protected.

By late 2024, water quality and quantity accounting tools are developed that reflect the freshwater attributes used in the freshwater plan change.

Monitoring to assess the effectiveness of mitigations to improve water quality are developed in conjunction with the freshwater plan change.

## NON-REGULATORY

Action plans are developed to respond to deteriorating water quality, and measures are in place to assess their effectiveness.

Information on indicative surface and groundwater allocation is publicly available to guide use and development.

By late 2023, prioritised action plans are developed and implemented to reduce sediment and *E.coli* in swimming sites and public drinking water sources.

## GOALS

The reliability of water supplies continues to improve (especially drinking water) and Northland is more resilient to the effects of climate change and droughts through efficient use and storage of water.

## CONSENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Require water metering as a condition of consent in accordance with national standards / regulations.

For large water takes include review clauses and where appropriate require adaptive management in conditions of consent.

Continue to use water shortage directions to manage supply and use during low flow/dry conditions.

Apply water efficiency measures in consent conditions.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Council advocates for adequate water supply infrastructure through district plan changes and resource consent applications.

By mid-2024, include revised high flow harvest regime in the notified freshwater plan change.

Water body specific allocation regimes for areas of high/full allocation are included in the regional plan as needed.

## SCIENCE & DATA

Ongoing investigation into water body specific allocation for areas of full or high allocation.

Continue to monitor flows and levels in water bodies to ensure water quantity limits are met.

By late 2022 a soil moisture deficit and drought warning system is in place.

Continue to commission advice on the impacts of climate change on Northland's hydrology.

By mid-2023 review the high flow harvest regime for rivers.

By late 2025 a regional water-balance model is developed to inform decision making.

Continue to use sentinel bores and develop groundwater models to predict aquifer responses to sea level rise and effects of extraction from coastal aquifers.

## NON-REGULATORY

Continue to provide advice on adequate water tank storage capacity for landowners.

Continue to support and coordinate drought responses through Civil Defence and emergency management planning.

Risk assessments identify public supplies with current and/or predicted low security of water supply that are vulnerable to climate change.

Continue to participate in Northland Councils Four Waters Advisory Group.

By late 2025 source water protection plans are developed for priority drinking water catchments in conjunction with district councils, Māori, water providers and catchment communities.

Continue to support investigations into water availability/security of supply and water storage options.

Continue to support improved water resilience through the water tank scheme and partnerships with central government and Māori.



## GOALS

Aquatic ecosystems and habitats particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change are identified, and we continue working to improve their resilience.

Natural wetlands have been identified and protected, restoration and enhancement are proactively encouraged, and the area of wetlands is increasing.

## CONSENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Continue to apply conditions of consent for in-stream structures to provide for fish passage, while identifying barriers to fish passage and new in-stream structures are inventoried.

By late 2022, a compliance monitoring and enforcement plan is developed to:

- » improve compliance with wetland disturbance rules
- » improve compliance with the NES Freshwater and Regional Plan fish passage rules.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

By mid-2024 the freshwater plan change has been notified and includes limits and rules to protect aquatic ecosystems, freshwater biodiversity and habitats of threatened species.

## SCIENCE & DATA

Identify pressures that are likely to worsen the impacts of climate change on aquatic ecosystems.

By mid-2023, freshwater habitats of threatened species have been identified, and indicators for monitoring threatened species are developed.

By late 2022, water quality information is readily available to support development of freshwater farm plans.

By late 2023, indicators of wetland condition are identified to assess and record wetland health.

By mid 2023, a wetland monitoring programme has been designed.

## NON-REGULATORY

Wetland restoration continues to be supported through grant funding.

Opportunities for wetland creation/restoration are identified in freshwater action plans.

By 2022 an action plan is developed to identify barriers and improve fish passage.

Continue to lobby government to recognise and reward the carbon removals provided by wetlands.

Continue to support landowners to improve water quality and aquatic biodiversity through grant funding.

By 2025, all natural inland wetlands > 500m<sup>2</sup> are mapped and a wetland inventory developed to record condition and extent.

Continue to implement and develop dune lake management plans in conjunction with Māori



## GOALS

A refocused landowner advice and grant funding scheme is in place, targeting highly erodible land and protecting our sensitive environments such as dune lakes, wetlands.

One-third of Northland's high-risk, erosion-prone land is under soil conservation management.

## CONSENTS, COMPLIANCE MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT

Continue to apply a risk-based approach to monitoring compliance with plantation forestry, stock exclusion rules and land disturbance activities.

## SCIENCE & DATA

By early 2023 review and revise as needed regional policies and rules relating to land disturbance and use of erosion prone land (and include in the draft freshwater plan change).

By 2024 following consultation with tāngata whenua and communities propose freshwater outcomes, limits and targets for sediment reduction in the notified freshwater plan change.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Continue to monitor sediment attributes and trends in river monitoring.

By mid-2023 identify critical sources of sediment in Northland.

Continue to develop partnerships with communities, landowners, Māori, agencies and industry groups to improve freshwater.

Lobby for further government funding for soil conservation in Northland.

## NON-REGULATORY

Support community efforts to improve freshwater at a catchment scale through funding starting in mid-2022.

Continue to support the Kaipara Moana Restoration programme.

Support the development and implementation of freshwater farm plans.

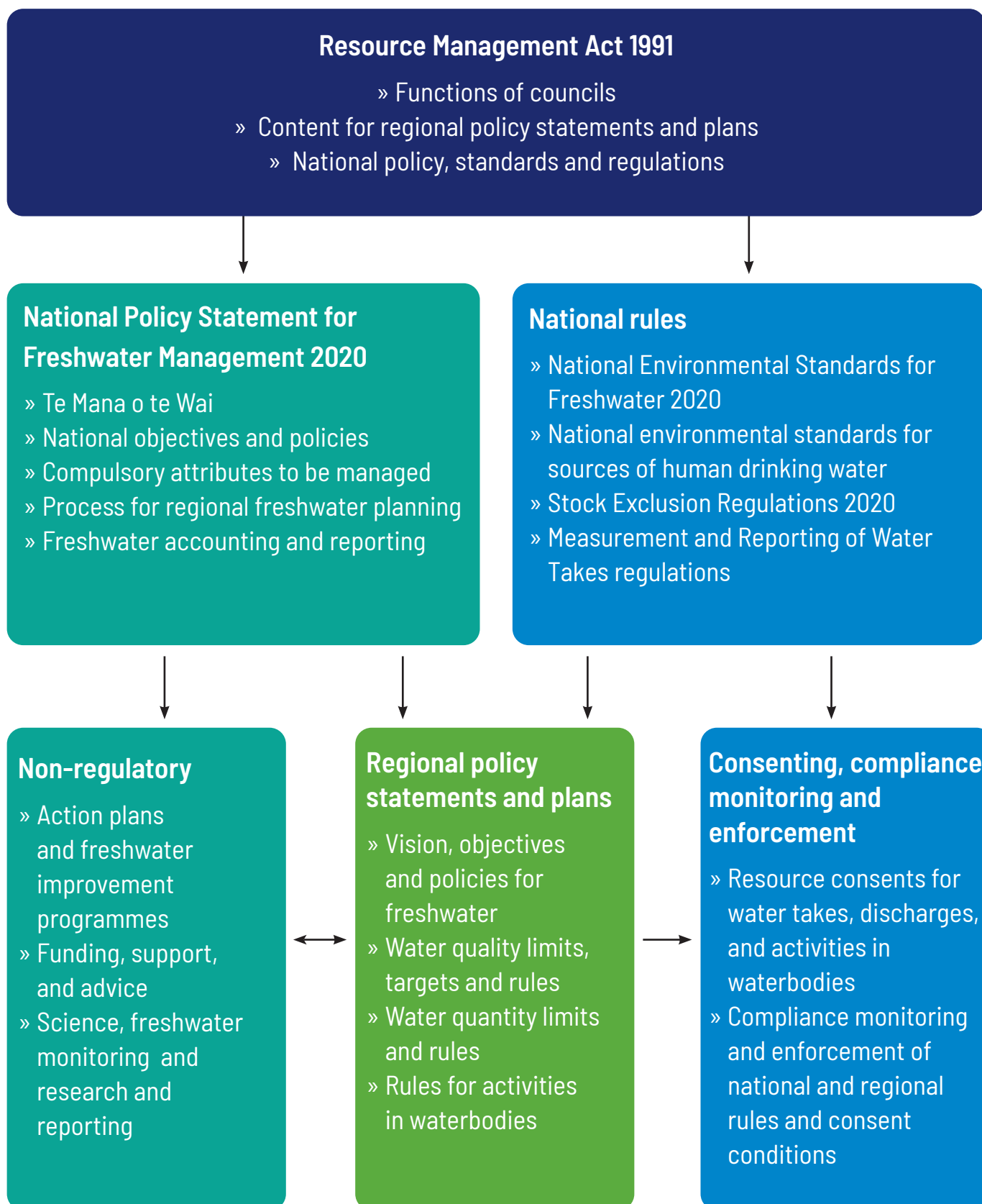
By late 2022, develop a strategic soil conservation plan that:

- » identifies critical erosion sources
- » identifies mitigations/sediment reduction measures
- » identifies priorities for sediment mitigation efforts.



# Ko te tirohanga whānui

## The big picture



# The freshwater plan change

## Timeline

The development of a freshwater plan change is a key element of councils, action on freshwater – following consultation with tāngata whenua and communities it will set out the vision, outcomes and targets for freshwater and the limits and rules to achieve them. The freshwater plan change must follow the process set out in the NPS-FM and be publicly notified by the end of 2024 – an indicative timeline is set out below.

# 2021 – 2025

**2021**

Establish advisory groups to assist in development of the freshwater plan change.



**MID 2023 - EARLY 2024**

Consider feedback and revise.



**2021 – MID 2023**

Develop the draft freshwater plan change.



**EARLY/MID 2024**

Publicly notify the proposed freshwater plan change.



**MID 2023**

Public consultation on the draft freshwater plan change.



**2025**

Hearings on the proposed freshwater plan change (s80A RMA process).





KO TE PAE TAWHITI, WHAIA KIA TATA KO TE PAE TATA,  
WHAKAMAUA KIA TINA, HAUMIE, HUI E, TAIKI E.

SEEK OUT DISTANT HORIZONS AND CHERISH  
THOSE THAT WE ATTAIN AS ONE.

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**Northland**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL   
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau