

Appendix Ten - Evaluation of the Whaitua Te Whanganui-A-Tara Implementation Programme

Evaluation of the Waitua Te Whanganui-A-Tara Implementation Programme

In 2020 the NPS-FM provided local authorities with updated direction on how they should manage freshwater under the Resource Management Act 1991. This required a partnership approach with mana whenua.

The waitua process is Greater Wellington Regional Council's approach to implementing the NPS-FM. Waitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara brought community members, elected officials, and mana whenua together to tackle freshwater management issues in Wellington and the Hutt Valley.

The waitua programme involves community-focused, collaborative planning processes to address land and water management issues in the Greater Wellington region. The programme aims to improve the integration of activities and achieve better resource management practices which reflect local aspirations for waterways.

Section 74(2)(a)(ii) of the RMA requires that the Council have regard to any proposed regional plan when undertaking a plan change.

Recommendations in the Waitua Te Whanganui-A-Tara Implementation Programme that may have relevance to the existence of freshwater bodies on the Silverstream Spur.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH WATERWAYS AND PIPED STREAMS

- 5 Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua and territorial authorities work with communities located around piped and above-ground streams to share those streams' stories through visual images, signs, sculptures, temporary artworks or other interactive ways that the communities design.
- 6 Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to name unnamed streams, including those currently piped underground, starting with large streams and then smaller streams within the waitua (by 2026).

- 7 Greater Wellington and territorial authorities add information to property Land Information Memorandum (LIM) reports about wetlands and streams that a property drains to and its pathway to the sea; the source of the property's water supply; and the treatment of its wastewater.

COUNCILS LEADING BY EXAMPLE

- 38 Greater Wellington and territorial authorities:
- » Are exemplars of good practice on all council-owned land and infrastructure, including contaminated land, farms, forestry land, wetlands and golf courses.
 - » Provide information on how good-practice decisions have been made.
 - » Report publicly on their year-on-year improvements.

CREATING A CONSISTENT APPROACH TO WSUD ACROSS THE WHAITUA

- 55 The relevant three waters agency's (currently Wellington Water) Regional Standard for Water Services should incorporate WSUD stormwater and water conservation interventions.⁶
- Also, territorial authorities' codes of practice and district plans should be amended to refer to the Regional Standard for Water Services (where applicable) by 2025, and should be mandatory for all developments (greenfield, infill/brownfield and re-development, including infrastructure). It should be supported through education programmes for contractors, community groups, and the design and engineering community.
- 57 By 2025, Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua and territorial authorities amend the relevant planning documents to retain, restore and enhance the natural drainage system – so that they require hydraulic neutrality and water-quality treatment in urban catchments through WSUD.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO MAKE THE MOST OF WSUD

- 58 Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua, together with territorial authorities and the relevant three waters agency, develop (by 2025) a comprehensive suite of regulatory and non-regulatory interventions for new property developments and infrastructure, to be implemented through WSUD via a catchment-management approach.

These interventions would include water impact assessments, rainwater/stormwater harvesting, rain gardens, constructed wetlands, green roofs, improved sump maintenance, strategic street sweeping and permeable pavements to reduce water-quality impacts and reduce peak wet weather flows.⁷ Existing properties and infrastructure should be retrofitted using this WSUD approach whenever opportunities arise (e.g., at the end of an asset's life).

- 59 The relevant three waters agency:

- » Develops a standardised tool (by 2025) that can be used to assess a development's potential contributions of contaminants and hydrological impacts
- » Recommends potential options to mitigate these effects using site-appropriate WSUD green infrastructure.

This supports the global stormwater strategy (Recommendation 56) and Recommendation 58.

BEING SMARTER ABOUT APPROACHES TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- 60 By 2025, Greater Wellington and territorial authorities amend the relevant planning documents so that all resource consents for property developments and infrastructure upgrades/repairs require the minimisation of stormwater effects and achieve hydraulic neutrality on-site. Where this is not possible or practical on development sites, a formal stormwater offsetting programme could be adopted to fund more efficient centralised systems in the public realm.⁸

- 61 Territorial authorities amend regulatory documents, while working with the relevant three waters agency, to (by 2035) reduce the effects of stormwater flooding on public health, safety and property by further integrating the use of roads and open spaces (such as parks and sports grounds) to act as overland flow paths and flood storage.⁹

ENSURING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IS MAINTAINED

- 62 By 2024, territorial authorities work with the relevant three waters agency to develop an approach to the ownership and management of green infrastructure for property developments, and ensure this infrastructure meets appropriate standards when being vested to council ownership.¹⁰
- 63 Territorial authorities ensure that (by 2024) all green infrastructure is adequately capitalised and depreciated to provide funding for ongoing maintenance and renewals.¹¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 66 By 2024, Greater Wellington amends the relevant regulatory documents to include policies that aim to avoid unsuitable property development, with reference to setbacks from stream/river margins and hydraulic neutrality.
- By 2025, territorial authorities incorporate rules in their district plans that:
- » Require WSUD, including hydraulic neutrality in any developments
 - » Provide for buildings to be set back from river and stream margins (these setbacks are to provide for āhua and natural character)
 - » Restrict development in known overland flow paths (in line with Recommendation 61).

- 77 Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua work with territorial authorities to identify (by 2025) and restore (by 2035) the spawning habitats of indigenous fish and mahinga kai species (e.g., inanga) in their rohe.
- 81 Greater Wellington supports Mana Whenua to develop mahinga kai measures related to water quantity.