

Report to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group – for Agreement and Approval

File No: 23 10 02
Date: 9 October 2015
To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group
From: Chairperson – Bill Wasley
Subject: **Re-crafted: Steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time**
Section: **Agreement and Approval**

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Waikato Regional Council policy advisors for the use of Collaborative Stakeholder Group Healthy Rivers: Wai Ora Project as a reference document and as such does not constitute Council's policy.

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the CSG with a re-crafted water quality outcome statement and staged approach over time, based on their feedback at CSG workshop 17, 1-2 October 2015, to be used during the consultation period 27th October to 13th November 2015.

Recommendation:

1. That the report [Re-crafted: Steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time] (Doc #3572646 dated 9 October 2015) be received, and
2. That the Collaborative Stakeholder Group confirm
 - a. That Text box 1, containing a water quality outcome statement and a staged approach over time, summarises the CSG feedback from CSG17, and
 - b. That CSG use the content of Text Box 1, including any refinements made by CSG, during the consultation period 27th October 2015 to 13th November 2015.

2 Discussion at CSG17

At CSG workshop 17, 1-2 October 2015, staff provided a report which contained an example of how to frame the steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time (Waikato Regional Council 2015). CSG discussed this report and provided feedback (Facilitation session notes). Below is a re-crafted version of a water quality outcome and staged approach over time for CSG discussion.

CSG also noted the issue that a RMA plan needs to be reviewed every 10 years after it is made operative.¹ This means that any long term goal and timeframes to meet them are subject to review and amendments in the future. CSG might choose to recommend to the Healthy River Wai Ora Committee that a long term outcome and a staged approach should be included somewhere outside of an RMA plan. This topic could be discussed further with CSG, River Iwi and Waikato River Authority.

Textbox 1: Re-crafted from CSG 17 - Water quality outcome and staged approach over time

Water quality outcome – Restore and Protect

The water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is restored and protected by 2096 so that the rivers and their tributaries are:

- a) safe to swim in all seasons across a range of flows, and
- b) safe to harvest kai for eating, and
- c) able to support abundant and diverse freshwater fisheries, flora and fauna.

The restored water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is protected for future generations.

Staged improvements to achieve restoration

The water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments will be restored and protected over the next 80 years in a series of staged improvements. **Stages 1 and 2 will occur during the lifespan of Plan Change 1.** The water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments will not degrade any further while stages to achieve restoration are being implemented.

Stage 1 – 10% of the way to the outcome in 10 years

By 2026 water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is improved to reach 10% of the way towards the water quality outcome.

Stage 2 – 25% of the way to the outcome in 20 years

By 2036 water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is improved to reach 25% of the way towards the water quality outcome.

Stage 3 – 50% of the way to the outcome in 60 years

By 2076 water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is improved to reach 50% of the way towards the water quality outcome.

Stage 4 – 100% of the way to the outcome in 80 years

By 2096 water quality of the Waikato and Waipa River catchments is improved to reach 100%, and therefore meet, the water quality outcome of restoration and protection.

¹ Considerable time may pass between notifying a plan and its rules coming into effect, and a plan becoming operative. The current Waikato Regional Plan was drafted in the late 1990's, and became operative in 2007. This is why there may be scope for both Stages 1 and 2 to be achieved before a plan is reviewed.

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References

Facilitation session notes CSG 17, 2 October 2015. Document #3572701.

Waikato Regional Council 2015. Report to Collaborative Stakeholder Group – For Agreement and Approval. Framing the steps to achieve the Vision and Strategy over time. Dated 28 September 2015. CSG workshop 17, 1 -2 October 2015. Document #3538762.