

Report to Collaborative Stakeholder Group 28 – 29 April 2016

File No: 23 10 05CS
Date: 19 April 2016
To: Collaborative Stakeholder Group
From: Director Resource Use
Subject: **Update on HRWO implementation planning**

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) on Waikato Regional Council's (WRC) implementation planning progress for Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai (HWRO).

Recommendation:

1. That the report "**Update on HRWO implementation planning**" (Doc # 3772056 dated 19 April 2016) be received for information.

Implementation plan

WRC is in the initial stages of developing a detailed implementation plan to support the outcomes sought through HRWO and ensure that implementation activities are efficiently and effectively delivered for the regional community.

The purpose of the implementation plan is to identify and set out the detailed activities, costs, resourcing, collaborative implementation opportunities, expected difficulties (risks and dependencies), and programming for the activities required to support the implementation of HRWO. The plan will seek to build on the significant work of the property plan subgroup in respect of implementation.

To date WRC has developed a draft scope for the plan identifying;

- The key business activities required to support implementation – including for example, internal system/process requirements, IT infrastructure, integration with external agencies and internal business support functions.
- Project management framework for plan development.
- Costs, funding and a programme for plan development.

The implementation plan project will be further refined during May, with the final detailed plan proposed for completion in December 2016.

Stakeholder and CSG member involvement

A significant proportion of the actions and business activities required to support the implementation of HRWO will need to occur outside WRC, most notably in reference to the development and ongoing implementation of farm planning.

Key industry stakeholders will therefore need to be formally engaged in the development of the implementation plan. Discussions with stakeholders around integration into the project structure will take place in May once the final policy mix is confirmed.

Potential implementation phasing

Initial work has also been undertaken at a high level on a potential implementation strategy and phasing for the first 10 year period. A series of “implementation tranches” is proposed, linked to the targets within the HRWO as follows;

Tranche 1: System and process development – mid 2017 to end 2018

- Developing essential systems and processes required to support implementation.
- Communicating and engaging with key stakeholders and landowners on the requirements of the plan change and the support available to assist.
- Registering properties within the relevant catchments.
- Reference point data collection.
- Accreditation for external farm plan providers.
- Registration of accredited industry schemes.

Tranche 2: Priority 1 catchments – start 2018 to end 2019

- Processing consents
- Developing and approving farm plans

Tranche 3: Priority 2 catchments – start 2020 to end 2022

- Processing consents
- Developing and approving farm plans

Tranche 4: Priority 3 catchments – start 2023 to end 2026

- Processing consents
- Developing and approving farm plans

Monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities will occur from the end of tranche 1 through to 2026.

The tranches and detailed activities within each will be subject to further testing/refinement through the implementation plan development process. The roll out will also remain dependent on the following;

1. Confirmation of the final policy mix by the CSG and HRWC by end of May.
2. WRC approving the HRWO Plan Change for notification in July.
3. The potential for significant changes to HRWO as a result of the schedule 1 process.

Summary

A further verbal update on implementation planning and progress will be provided at the next CSG workshop.

Angus McKenzie
Place Group Limited

Chris McLay
Director, Resource Use