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## Symposium

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# **Implementing the NPS-FM in the Wellington region**

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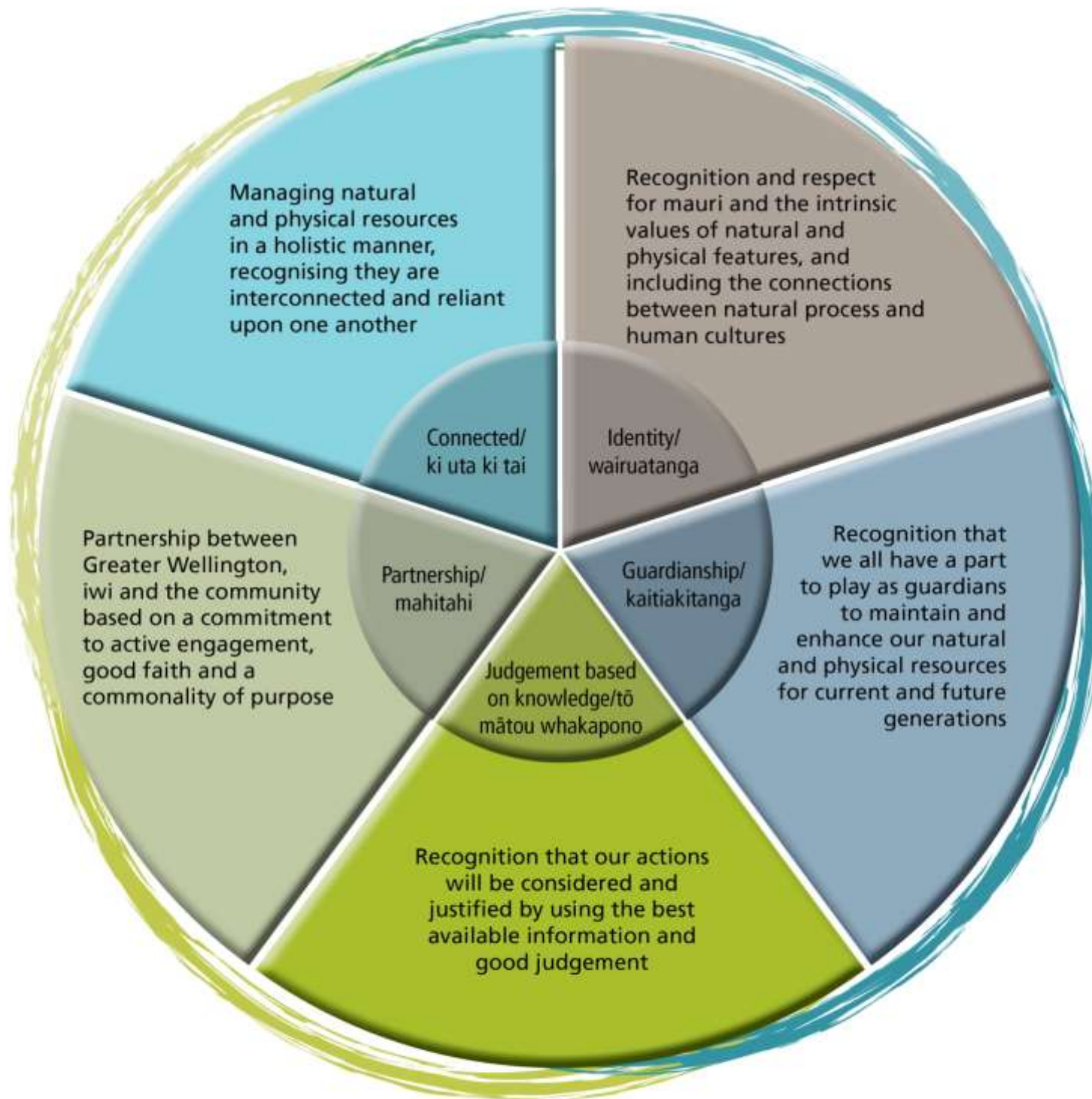
# The Wellington region's journey so far - our history is important

- Ara Tahī and the Charter of Understanding/Memorandum of Partnership 1993
- Regional Policy Statement 2011
- Regional Plan Review 2009
- Te Upoko Taiao 2009
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

# Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resources Committee

- Full Committee of Council delegated the task of developing regional plan - established 2010
- 7 elected and 7 appointed members – all appointed for skills and attributes, including knowledge of rohe; but not representatives of.
- Specifically enables Maori participation in decision making and builds on the RPS engagement and policy development process
- Co-chaired; committee is not discharged at the end of triennium
- Clear principles developed to guide committees work

# Principles to guide the review of regional plans and whaitua



# NPS-FM – game changer or not?

- Amongst other things, NPS requires Councils to
  - Maximise efficient allocation and efficient use of water
  - Maintain and improve water quality
  - Set Freshwater objectives and limits
  - Provide for iwi and hapu involvement and identification of tangata whenua values
- Our challenge
  - Regional Plan review process already underway
  - Very distinct region with agricultural and urban issues; needed a framework to implement



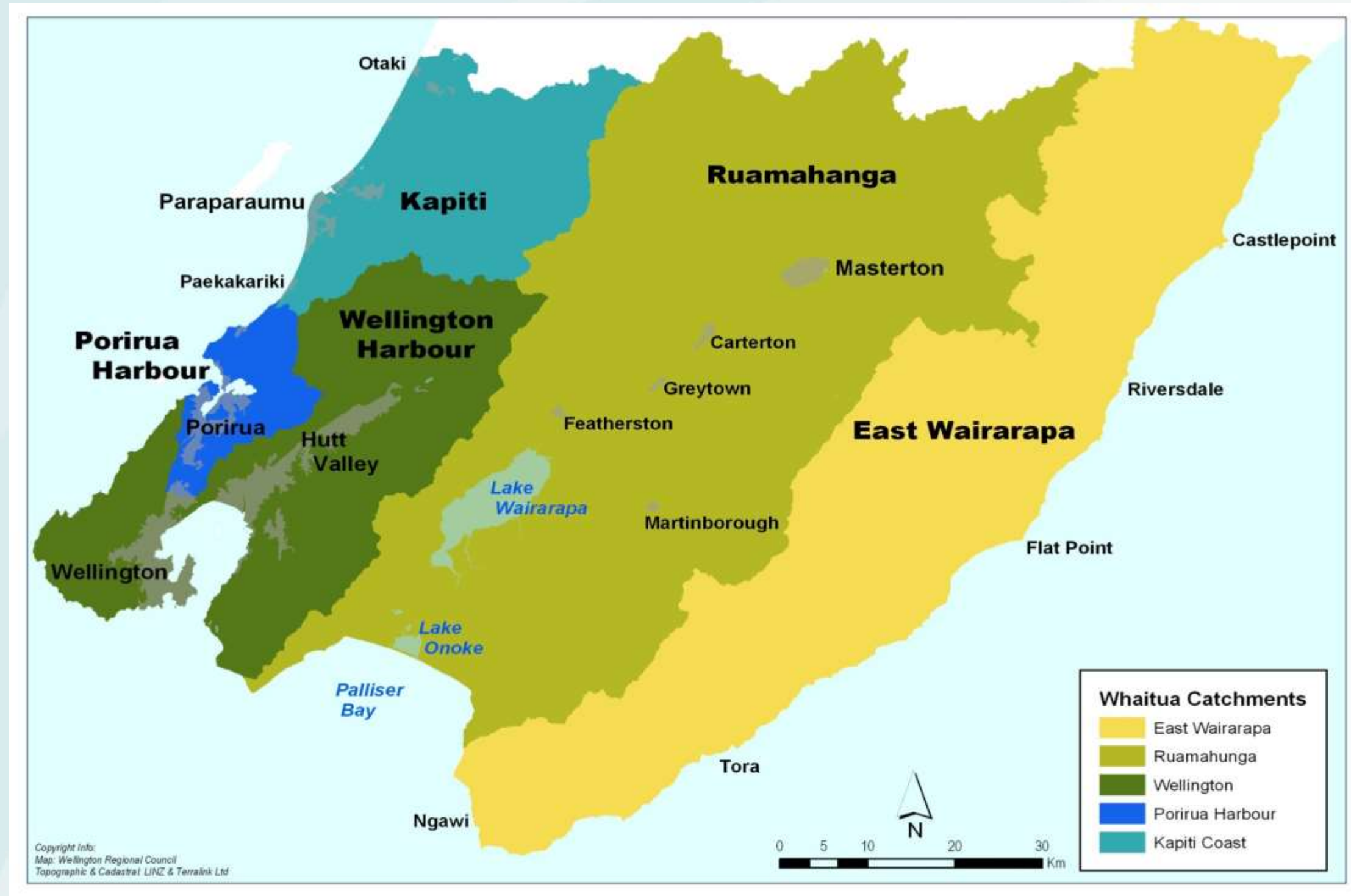
# Connecting the Plan with implementing the NPS

Needed a process to allow for existing plan review to continue but also acknowledge obligations of NPS:

- Manage land and water interactions at a regional scale; while allowing communities within catchments to establish their own values and places for protection
- Provide opportunities for integrated and enduring partnerships with communities
- Improve our ability to manage water quality and use through communities making their own decisions
- Statutory and non statutory packages



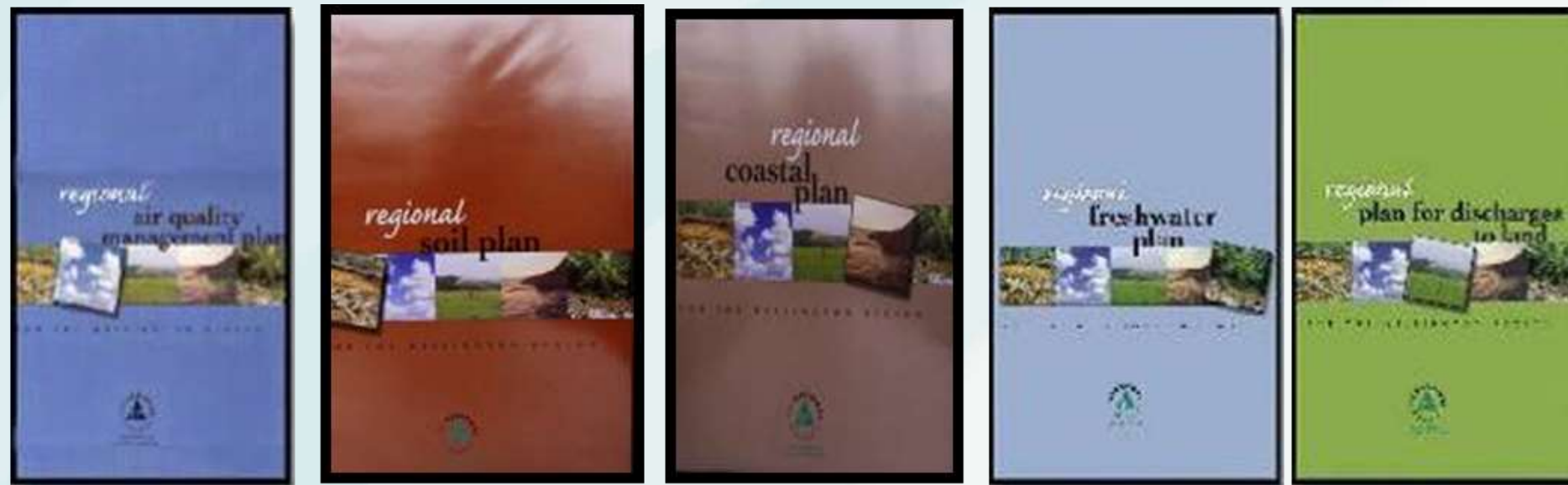
# Whaitua – catchment management and collaborative process





# Implementing the policy framework

Current regional plans



Process 1  
Give effect to RPS  
air, soil, hazards,  
heritage, coastal,  
land and water

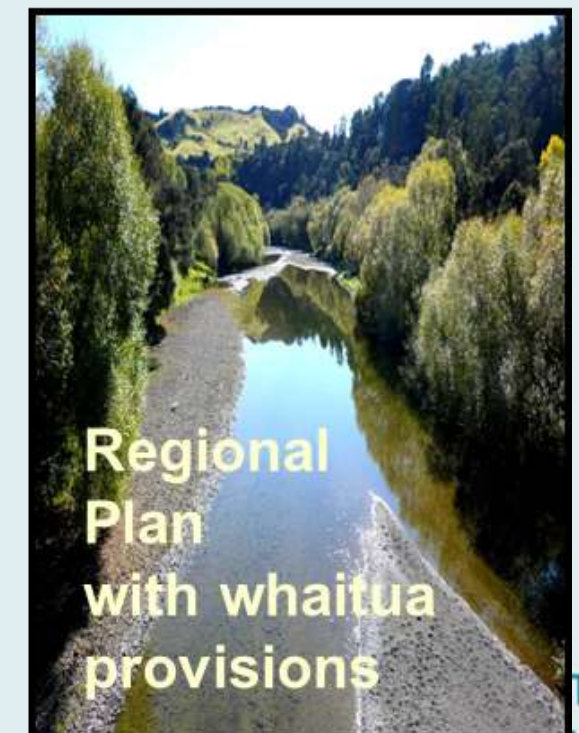


Process 2  
Implement the NPS-FW  
(catchment-based)  
whaitua

Second generation regional plan



- Ruamāhanga – Land and Water Management Chapter
- Wairarapa Coast Land and Water Management Chapter
- Porirua Harbour Land and Water Management Chapter
- Kāpiti Coast Land and Water Management Chapter
- Wellington/Hutt Valley Land and Water Management Chapter





# **Whaitua committees - Delivering the NPS through catchment scale processes**





# Greater Wellington's approach to a staged implantation of the NPS-FM

- Whaitua committees – staged approach to NPS implementation and a partnership with iwi
- 2013 through to 2023 – two committees on the go at any one time
- Integrated Catchment Management through collaborative community based decision making:
  - Provides a framework for implementing the NPS-FW
  - Integrates regulatory and non regulatory methods
  - Advisory body established by Council
  - Reflects the five principles of the Plan review process
  - Develops a Whaitua Implementation Plan



# Whaitua Committees

- Membership
  - 1 elected and 1 appointed member of Te Upoko Taiao;
  - iwi authority member from rohe;
  - one member from each represented TA;
  - up to seven members from local community
  - Range of background, interests and skills critical
- Committee tasked with:
  - Developing specific whaitua or catchment objectives and targets for water quality and quantity outcomes, including timeframes
  - Establishing water quality limits for freshwater
  - Reviewing water allocation limit
  - Recommending suite of non-regulatory options
  - WIP recommended through Te Upoko Taiao and then full Council
  - Time bound 24-36 months

# Risks, challenge and what now?

- Rolling plan reviews to implement WIPs
- Schedule 1 process presents usual environment court risks despite Whaitua process
- Time and resource for all parties involved
- Perceptions of legitimacy and transparency
- RMA reform

But: this can and will work as a legitimate way in which to implement the NPS-FW!