

Report No.	19-145
Decision Required	

## **FRESHWATER FUTURES – DRAFT IN PRINCIPLE APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE PROCESS FOR THE MANAWATŪ CATCHMENT**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is for Members to consider support for a set of draft in principle governance arrangements for Te ia o Manawatū.

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1. Three hui have been held to discuss potential governance arrangements for a Manawatū catchment process with a primary focus on the development of a strategy for the catchment. A set of draft in principle arrangements have been produced and these are attached at **Annex A**.
- 2.2. In the new triennium Council and iwi will meet again to continue to firm up arrangements and to consider the implications of Government's Essential Freshwater package for catchment planning.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-145 and Annex.
- b. notes that there are further discussions to be held between iwi and council;
- c. notes the progress of discussions to date as outlined in this report;
- d. supports the approach in the attached governance document noting that it is a draft in principle and not a final set of arrangements.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 4.1. Council established a funding mechanism for Freshwater Futures as part of the current Long Term Plan. Specific arrangements to support the proposed governance model will be brought to the new Council early in its triennium.

### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- 5.1. Three hui have been held involving tangata whenua from several iwi, Councillors and council officers. Council has outlined its broad approach to freshwater management in public documents and on its website.

### **6. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT**

- 6.1. Timeframes proposed in Government's Essential Freshwater package will likely make community based catchment planning challenging. There will be an ongoing conversation about how Council delivers on both community collaboration and Essential Freshwater as Government's package becomes clearer.

## **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1. Council has sought to put in place a catchment based planning process across the region to deliver on its Freshwater Futures programme and to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.
- 7.2. The catchment based process is designed to enable community input into setting values, objectives and approaches to freshwater and the land management that impacts on freshwater.
- 7.3. The first catchment proposed for this collaborative approach is the Manawatū catchment.
- 7.4. The first step in the catchment planning process is to establish a governance arrangement.
- 7.5. As a result, Council has been exploring a governance relationship with iwi with interests in the Manawatū River and its tributaries.
- 7.6. A governance arrangement is being sought with the initial task of the governance entity being to produce a strategy for the river, noting the potential for a governance arrangement to extend to other key areas of work in the catchment in the future.
- 7.7. A series of three hui have been held with a number of iwi across the catchment and Councillors and senior staff.
- 7.8. The first two hui were facilitated by Paul Beverley, a partner at Buddle Findlay, and experienced Treaty lawyer. Mr Beverley also drafted the proposed governance document at Annex A.
- 7.9. The draft in principle document is being presented to Council to allow Members to consider direction and approach. The draft in principle document is also available to iwi to enable iwi to use it for their processes.
- 7.10. In terms of process steps the following have been taken or are yet to occur:
  - 7.10.1. Step 1 has been engagement at three hui. The product is the draft In principle governance document
  - 7.10.2. Step 2 will be consideration by iwi and Council of the draft in principle arrangements. That is the purpose of this paper for Council.
  - 7.10.3. Step 3 will be to confirm the proposed arrangements with Council and iwi. This step will happen once a new Council has been sworn in and iwi processes have been completed.
  - 7.10.4. Step 4. Completion of final terms of reference for a Manawatū strategy.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1. The arrangements detailed in Annex A provide for:
  - 8.1.1. An overall vision which is the same as that for the Manawatu Accord.
  - 8.1.2. A set of principles starting with the Treaty of Waitangi and working through a set of guiding principles. These essentially frame how those involved with the governance process intend to work together.
  - 8.1.3. A joint Tangata Whenua – Council committee whose first job will be to produce a strategy for the river, its tributaries, lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater that form part of those interconnected waterways.
  - 8.1.4. A set of proposed arrangements for the committee including for membership, voting and a quorum.
  - 8.1.5. An appendix outlining the first task of the committee being the development of strategic direction for the Manawatū River.

## **9. SIGNIFICANCE**

- 9.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Nic Peet

**GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY & REGULATION**

## **ANNEXES**

- A Draft Te iā o Manawātū Governance Document