

Implementation of the NPSFM in the Horizons Region

Freshwater planning is guided by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. In our region, the One Plan addresses most of the NPSFM's requirements. It identifies community values and numerical objectives, and takes an integrated approach to improving water quality. The main requirement of the NPSFM that the One Plan does not address is catchment limits, which link instream outcomes with actions on land.

While most of the One Plan works well, there are issues with its nutrient-management provisions. We also have more work to do to keep our plans up-to-date with national policy and community expectations.

Horizons' is taking a catchment-based approach to freshwater management. Over the next few years, we will work with communities to take stock of what progress we've made so far, confirm what outcomes we are seeking to achieve, and check that we have the right set of measures in place to get there. Changes in regulation (the One Plan) are likely, to implement our catchment strategies.

Treaty settlement legislation will provide the basis for freshwater planning in two of our main catchments:

- Te Awa Tupua Act 2017 establishes a legal framework for the Whanganui, including development of a river strategy, Te Heke Ngahuru.
- The Ngāti Rangi Treaty settlement, once it comes into effect, will similarly provide a framework for development of a Whangaehu catchment strategy.

In addition, strategies will be developed for the following areas:

- Manawatū
- Horowhenua
- Rangitīkei-Turakina
- Kai Iwi
- Coastal Tararua

We aim to have completed catchment strategies, and notified changes to the One Plan, by 2025.

Subject to statutory processes, the NPSFM (2017 version) would be fully implemented in the Horizons region by 2027.