

Report No.	19-113
<b>Decision Required</b>	

## ONE PLAN - PROGRAMME UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To provide Council with an update of ongoing development and evolution of the One Plan, including programme detail relating to Proposed Plan Change 2 (nutrient management), and draft plan change 3 and 4.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-113.
- b. notes that Proposed Plan Change 2 was notified as planned on 22 July 2019.
- c. notes that submissions on Proposed Plan Change 2 close on 21 October 2019.
- d. notes that scoping work is underway for draft plan change 3, covering further nutrient management work and further implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
- e. notes that scoping work is underway for draft plan change 4, covering the implementation of the National Planning Standards and minor maintenance changes.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. There is no impact on existing budgets as a result of this report.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. There is ongoing engagement with the iwi, stakeholder groups and the wider community on the One Plan development. As noted further in this paper, notification is underway on Proposed Plan Change 2.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk associated with this report.

### 6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. The Horizons One Plan (Combined Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan) was made fully operative in December 2014. The One Plan is a required regulatory instrument for sustainable resource management under section 60 of the **Resource Management Act (RMA)**, and is required to be reviewed at least once every 10 years.
- 6.2. Many councils have adopted a sectional review, and this is a position adopted by this Council. Currently we have a work programme to undertake a series of plan changes within the next eight years, but remain agile in anticipation of substantial Government reform to the RMA and its associated regulations. The first of these plan changes has been completed, which incorporated changes required by the new National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry and other minor administrative changes.

## 7. PLAN CHANGE WORK IN PROGRESS

### *Proposed Plan Change 2*

- 7.1. Following on from the previous meeting of Council, Proposed Plan Change 2 was notified on 22 July 2019, as resolved at that Council meeting. Proposed Plan Change 2 has a nutrient management focus, with an intent to amend and clarify the policies and rules for existing intensive land use. The expectation is that these changes will assist to bring existing intensive land users into a regulatory regime, while setting criteria for delivering greater improvement in environmental practices over time.
- 7.2. The Council has undertaken the statutory process elements of schedule 1 in accordance with the RMA to notify stakeholders that Proposed Plan Change 2 is notified. We are now undertaking further communication of the plan change notification to a wider audience and using a variety of platforms (including video) to invite people to have their say.
- 7.3. To support the community, particularly members who may have an interest in being engaged in the plan making process, but no particular experience with the RMA, Council is appointing a *friend of the submitter*. Advertisements for this role have been placed in all local papers, and we anticipate that an appointment to the role will be made by early September. The submission period is due to close on 21 October 2019.
- 7.4. The issues covered within Proposed Plan Change 2 addressed immediate issues that hamper workability of the One Plan for potential consent applicants, and these were highlighted in the declaratory proceedings in 2017 and the independent advice provided to the Minister for the Environment in late 2018.

### *Draft Plan Change 3*

- 7.5. The project scope for plan change 3 has now been drafted. Scope is proposed to include further work on nutrient management and next steps on implementation of the **National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management (NPSFM)**.
- 7.6. The further work on nutrient management is proposed to address new/conversions to intensive land use, further intensification of existing intensive operations anywhere in the region and coordinated intensive land use (where, for example, one land area is de-intensified in exchange for intensification of another land parcel).
- 7.7. A second, and linked, component to further implement the NPSFM would look to consider making the One Plan more consistent with the language used in the National Objectives Framework, and understand how the plan could best prepare for the introduction of the catchment-level work that may be developed as a result of Horizons Our Freshwater Futures programme. This work may include refinement of the regional level settings, leveraging the already defined values in the One Plan developed by our community.
- 7.8. With the addition of this second component, it is anticipated final proposals are unlikely to be brought before Council for decisions on notification before the end of 2019. However, we expect that delivery could be achieved early in the new year. This revised timing may be useful to accommodate Government's recent announcements of phase 1 RMA reform, which includes "essential freshwater" – a set of proposed changes to enable regional council's implementation of freshwater improvement regulation.
- 7.9. Council staff are currently engaging with a range of stakeholders and commissioning evidence and legal advice to support policy development.

### *Draft Plan Change 4*

- 7.10. The project scope for plan change 4 is currently in development. The focus is predominantly on implementation of the National Planning Standards that were released earlier this year. It is intended that some minor maintenance changes would also be included within the scope of this work.

13 August 2019

---

- 7.11. Currently the e-plan component of the National Planning Standards would be out-of-scope. Work is underway across a regional sector consortium to understand the tools and quantum of investment that would be needed to install an appropriate technological platform to support e-plan implementation. There may also be merit in working with the territorial authorities within our region who have the same requirement. The territorial authorities have advised that they are taking a wait-and-see approach at this early stage.
- 7.12. It is anticipated that this draft plan change will continue to advance on schedule, with notification planned to be advanced around the middle of next year.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1. No consultation was required in the production of this report.

## **9. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS**

- 9.1. Staff propose to provide a substantive update to the Council on Plan Change 3 at their November Council meeting. The Chair will continue to update the Minister for the Environment on the progress being made by the Council to resolve the nutrient management issues identified during the implementation of the One Plan.

## **10. SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Rebecca Tayler  
**MANAGER POLICY & STRATEGY**

Nic Peet  
**GROUP MANAGER STRATEGY & REGULATION**

## **ANNEXES**

There are no attachments for this report.