

Report No.	19-115
Decision Required	

## CATCHMENT PLANNING UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This report updates Members on progress with *Our Freshwater Future*.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 19-115.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. The information in this report has no direct financial impact.

### 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. Community engagement about freshwater policy in recent months has focused on changes to the One Plan (outside the scope of this report) and discussion with iwi about possible governance arrangements for *Te ia o Manawatū*.

### 5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. Better freshwater planning is a focal area for Horizons, to which a significant amount of resource has been assigned through the 2018-28 **Long-Term Plan (LTP)**. It is also a topic of strong political interest locally and nationally. While no specific business risk requires attention at this time, the scale and profile of the activity are such that it requires careful management.

### 6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. At its February 2019 meeting, Council adopted an approach to catchment planning across the region, and instructed the Chief Executive to report back regularly on progress (see Report 19-16). This is the second of those updates.

### 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. Work has continued to progress steadily since the last update in May (Report 19-60). A steering group has been established to coordinate effort across Horizons' freshwater programme. The main focus during this period has been on preparing for a Manawatū catchment process (*Te ia o Manawatū*), as described below. Some work has also been done to identify options to accelerate implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) without undermining our broader catchment planning approach.

**Te ia o Manawatū: Governance**

- 7.2. In February, Council agreed to the principle of sharing governance of *Te ia o Manawatū* with iwi and invited a discussion about possible arrangements for the process. Iwi leaders and some Councillors attended an initial hui on 24 May. The meeting was constructive, and was followed by a further hui on 1 August to discuss principles of engagement and potential Terms of Reference. Both were independently facilitated by Paul Beverley of Buddle Findlay.
- 7.3. Discussion on principles is set to continue at a third hui, and we believe a broad consensus on the desirability and general form of shared governance of *Te ia o Manawatū* will be able to be confirmed early in the new triennium with the overarching principles of the approach agreed before the end of the current triennium.

**Project support**

- 7.4. Arrangements are being put in place internally to support *Te ia o Manawatū*. Staffing requirements have been confirmed, with job descriptions created for each role. Internal expressions of interest and any external advertising required will commence shortly. Provision for catchment planning was made in the 2018-28 LTP, and staff support will be provided within existing budgets. This may require some reprioritisation of activity at an operational level, and planning for this is in train.

**Information for catchment planning**

- 7.5. Work to surface institutional knowledge relevant to catchment planning in the Manawatū got underway in July, and further activities planned to build staff awareness of the project and improve cross-team collaboration within Horizons are due to take place in October.
- 7.6. We are currently developing our approach to stakeholder engagement and planning ahead for the induction processes, as we anticipate members of the community, stakeholders, iwi representatives and others will be involved in catchment planning in various ways. Each party will bring a different perspective and different prior knowledge, and we aim to allow as much to be shared during the catchment planning process as possible.

**7.7. Alignment with national direction**

- 7.8. The next set of NPSFM amendments is expected to be announced in late August. Our NPSFM implementation plan – last updated in December 2018 – will need to evolve to accommodate changes in national direction and practical considerations arising from One Plan change processes and our catchment planning programme, and we have planned for this in our work programme.
- 7.9. This timing has been taken into account as we continue to investigate ways to close remaining gaps between the One Plan and the NPSFM within the timeframes required by Government. There is a risk that regulatory changes could undermine the outcome-focused catchment processes we propose as the next substantive phase of freshwater planning across the region, but we believe this risk can be managed.

**8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1. No specific consultation was undertaken in preparing this update.

**9. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS**

- 9.1. The main focus for the remainder of this calendar year is formalising the governance arrangements for *Te ia o Manawatu*, and development of the internal resourcing to support the catchment planning process.
- 9.2. We will look to provide a further regular update the Council in October.

13 August 2019

---

## **10. SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Tom Bowen  
**PRINCIPAL ADVISOR, STRATEGY & POLICY**

Nic Peet  
**GROUP MANAGER  
STRATEGY & REGULATION**

## **ANNEXES**

There are no attachments for this report.