Tasman District Council

Mountains to the Sea – Round 3
(October–November 2023)

Freshwater Environmental Outcomes Summary of Feedback

Contents

1. Introduction

This document summarises the feedback received from public engagement on Freshwater Environmental Outcomes. The document does not represent council adoption of feedback or define how this feedback will be used. Future work will outline and report on the policy response to the feedback.

Tasman District Council (TDC) held a third round of public engagement on the 'Mountains to the Sea' (M2S3) as part of TDC's freshwater policy changes. The engagement focussed on 21 'Environmental Outcomes' derived from values of water identified in earlier engagement rounds. From 20 October to 30 November 2023, TDC reached out to Tasman communities and wider stakeholder groups via Shape Tasman (TDC website), emails, Facebook, Newsline, newspaper articles, a radio interview, and local newsletters. Policy staff also presented to community boards and councillors, attended community meetings and delivered three webinars. Feedback from the rural and environmental sectors was sought through targeted emails which were redistributed through their networks.

Feedback was received from the following sources:

- 75 responses on the Shape Tasman website (online survey).
- 40 comments on TDC's Facebook page.
- 16 written responses from organisations and individuals, including: Deer Industry NZ Department of Conservation, Federated Farmers of NZ, Horticulture NZ, Manawa Energy, Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit, Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, NZ Fish and Game Council, NZ Energy, OneFortyOne NZ Ltd., Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and Stormwater 360.

This report summarises a range of responses received for each of the 21 freshwater Environmental Outcomes presented on Shape Tasman. The online survey (on Shape Tasman) invited respondents to either agree or disagree with the statement associated with each Outcome and provided a space for comments. Feedback from other sources, including Facebook comments and email responses are also summarised anonymously in this report.

Discussions between TDC staff and Te Tauihu iwi representatives are ongoing and will feed into further developing freshwater visions, values and environmental outcomes from the perspective of tangata whenua. This Mountains to the Sea Round 3 summary report does not specifically address Te Tauihu iwi perspectives on freshwater in the Tasman District.

2. General Comments

A number of general comments were made as follows:

- All policies must consider the implications of continued human development and growth in relation to freshwater use, its protection and restoration.
- Outcomes must acknowledge situations where water quality degradation is caused by natural processes. Typically, the outcomes of Mahinga kai, Human contact and Wai tapu.
- The year 2100 is too far away. Visions should be 10 and 20 year time horizons. Even a degraded waterway can be restored to some extent in 20-30 years.
- Future outcomes need to strike a balance between environmental outcomes and economic affordability.
- Agriculture, horticulture, and viticulture are land uses that are an integral part of district, region, and nations economy.

- Climate change will put pressure on global food markets, therefore, local production must be maintained for future generations.
- Greater emphasis needs to be placed on the production of food for human consumption, as a basic human health need, over and above other irrigation needs such as water for sports grounds.
- Rules without effective enforcement are a waste.

3. Feedback on the 21 Environmental Outcomes

After consideration of public feedback from the previous two rounds of engagement on Mountains to the Sea, the next step was to draft environmental outcomes. Asking people an open-ended question for their visions for freshwater in round one yielded limited feedback. It was only when draft visions were proposed in the second round of public engagement that meaningful feedback was received. This is also why draft environmental outcomes were provided for this round of engagement.

Updated environmental outcomes incorporating feedback received through this round will be released later this year alongside a draft Land and Freshwater Plan Change (subject to Central Government changes). The draft plan change will be a change to the existing Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) and will provide an opportunity for anyone to provide informal feedback ahead of formal notification of a plan change.

Feedback on the 21 environmental outcomes is discussed in the following sections, in summary the outcomes are:

1) water quality;

2) water quantity;

3) habitat;

4) aquatic life;

5) ecological processes;

6) human contact;

7) mahinga kai (food and resource gathering);

8) threatened species;

9) natural form and character;

10) drinking water supply;

11) wai tapu;

12) transport and tauranga waka;

13) hydroelectric generation;

14) fishing;

15) irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages;

16) animal drinking water;

17) commercial and industrial use;

18) public access;

19) aggregate resources;

20) resilience to climate change;

21) kaitiakitanga / stewardship.

The table below summarises respondents' preferences (agree, disagree, other) to the draft environmental outcome statements proposed in the online survey. Seventy-five people participated, although not all chose to respond to each question.

Table 1: Summary of respondents' preferences to the draft environmental outcome statements

Outcome	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Agree	68	63	66	63	63	61	58	64	61	60	59	56	56	53	47	59	47	57	51	55	58
Disagree	0	2	0	2	1	4	6	2	3	4	5	6	9	6	10	4	10	7	9	8	8
Other	6	5	5	6	7	6	7	4	7	7	6	7	6	11	16	9	14	6	9	9	5
Total responses	74	70	71	71	71	71	71	70	71	71	70	69	71	70	71	72	71	70	69	72	69

The following section summarises comments received from individuals and organisations on the environmental outcomes and value descriptions. Some individual comments have been grouped where content is similar. The summary combines feedback from Shape Tasman online survey, Facebook comments, and emails.

3.1 Outcome 1 – Ecosystem Health *water quality*

Freshwater quality supports healthy waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems.

All 68 respondents to the online survey agreed with the above statement.

Comments received from combined feedback (i.e. the website, social media and emailed responses) are summarised as follows:

- Concerns about levels of sediment and nitrate in all waterbodies and the need for reduced levels.
- There is degradation of rivers and lakes from agricultural takes.
- Discharges should be prevented from going into waterways.
- Specific locations of concern mentioned: Lake Killarney in Takaka, Horton Valley Stream, Peach Island, Te Kakau, the nitrate plume near Bartletts Road, and wastewater issues in the Motueka River and the Tasman Valley Stream.
- Questions related to science include: what is deemed 'healthy' nutrient thresholds and how council will uphold these thresholds; importance of ecosystem health as a measure to not ignore freshwater habitat degradation; water quality is closely linked to quantity, so need to ensure natural flows throughout the year in all our streams – in particular, the Motueka and Takaka rivers; healthy ecosystems incorporate a wide variety of attributes including invertebrates, algae, fish, and presence of intact connection with surrounding land.
- Emphasis on the need for a 'high' level of water quality, as anything less is detrimental to freshwater life. Concerns about shifting baseline syndrome in the use of 'freshwater quality' as an outcome because people and entities that engage in activities that degrade freshwater may argue for a lower definition of 'quality'.
- Protection of food production practices, and associated community and economic sustainability.
- Caution against additional monitoring or compliance costs for farms where the effects of farming activities are not contributing to water quality degradation, nor are in an area which is degrading. Tailored farm plans will identify the level of monitoring and compliance required.
- Recognition within the Environmental Outcome that water quality is often subject to natural changes outside of human control, such as storm events.
- Request to update the value description to include mātauranga Māori monitoring indicators for assessing water quality.

Suggested wording changes from submitters:

- *The highest level of freshwater quality is needed to support healthy, connected waterbodies – freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems.*
- *The highest level of freshwater quality supports healthy waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems.*
- *Water quality as measured by a comprehensive approach that assesses the physical and chemical attributes of the water, such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, suspended*

sediment, nutrients and toxicants while also taking a holistic approach to understand the complex dynamics and interactions within waterways. (re, the Value description)

- *<u>Subject to storm events</u> freshwater quality supports healthy waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems.*

3.2 Outcome 2 – Ecosystem Health *water quantity*

The flow regimes of waterbodies, including variability and minimum flows and levels, support healthy waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems.

From the online survey, 63 respondents agreed with this draft Environmental Outcome and 2 disagreed.

Comments from all sources of feedback include:

- Concerns raised about maintaining natural flow regimes in rivers and streams, allowing ebb and flow with natural cycles; recognition that streams move naturally, and land in accretion areas should allow for this.
- Requests to set minimum flows that are: sound and based on ecological studies; maintained when climatic conditions allow; consider economic effects – and balance economic impacts with environmental protection; based on tributary minimum flows. One respondent argued that minimum flow rates shouldn't be set to meet the requirements of trout. Another requested removal/repurpose of gravel buildup to help with minimum flows and reduce damage during flood events.
- A request for more accuracy in prediction of flows and levels in surface water bodies to enable farmers to improve efficiency of water use.
- Request that the value description considers more than minimum flows, i.e. allocation framework, activities that require more water throughout different times of the year, groundwater and surface water interactions. Another pointed out that there is more to waterbody health than flow, but also the biota and ecology present in our aquifers.
- Comments specific to groundwater: monitor and manage groundwater extraction to ensure sustainable levels; adopt a precautionary approach to groundwater inputs (e.g. dairy farms near Waikoropupū Springs to be discontinued); close monitoring of groundwater takes from Wai-iti.
- Comments specific to irrigation/water take uses: if water (quantity) users take high flows during wet years, then they may have to reduce their take in future dry years (even if this has an economic impact); limit irrigation use to protect water quality. Restrict farmers from taking water from the Motueka aquifer to other drought-stricken areas in the region.
- Other comments related to economic factors: users should pay for water, inefficient (spray) systems should be disincentivised and a maximum total take should be enforced; all businesses that use freshwater for profit must pay and be obligated to look after the rivers and streams wellbeing; concerns over potential economic losses from reduced water availability in dry years.
- Support for better protection of all water bodies and remediation for those harmed by existing practices; mandatory riparian protection and letting rivers and streams flow and meander naturally; support farmers and properties in urban areas to establish wetlands and marshes.
- This Environmental Outcome should apply to all permanent and intermittent streams as well as other water bodies and include the interface between freshwater and marine in the definitions.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *…support healthy waterbodies, ~~and~~ freshwater ecosystems <u>and the community and its needs including farming</u>.*

- *There is more to waterbody health than flow. It's not just the flow regime, but also the biota and ecology present in our aquifers.*

3.3 Outcome 3 – Ecosystem Health *habitat*

Healthy waterbodies, including their beds, banks and margins support a range of habitat values including:

(a) physical form, structure and extent;
(b) natural flows and substrate, pools, riffles and runs;
(c) aquatic and margin vegetation;
(d) connections to ecological flood plains and wetlands;*
(e) connections to groundwater; and
(f) natural substrate and available woody material.

*[*ecological flood plains provide for processes important for ecosystem health, but exclude flood plains related to natural hazard risk]*

All 66 respondents to the online survey agreed with the above draft environmental outcome statement. However, quite a number of respondents requested changes to the wording and called for a clarification of definitions.

Comments received from feedback include:

- Advocating for more 'Room for Rivers' policies in Tasman's plans to allow waterways to flood naturally to reduce reliance upon expensive stopbanks and channelisation which is detrimental to healthy ecosystem functioning. Allowing more space for river flows in river plains and respect the ecological floodplains of smaller streams. All water bodies should maintain their natural flow levels and characteristics.
- Recognition that more wetland restoration is needed across the whole District. Request to discourage agricultural practices that drain wetlands. Halting stream loss should be a clear outcome, including both permanent and intermittent streams and wetlands.
- More consultation with landowners whose properties adjoin rivers regarding the parameters set, how Habitat Quality Indexes are being assessed, and the results produced. Acknowledge the importance of shading from riparian vegetation, the impact of natural weather events such as heavy rainfall or droughts, and the interactions between various aquatic species. Increase plantings on river margins to provide habitat for native fauna and to mitigate bank erosion.
- Request significant funding for fencing riparian strips throughout the catchment.
- Monitoring and assessment: Request measure baseline values are measured, and changes over extended periods of time are monitored. Find root causes for issues using proven methodologies. Implement changes based on comprehensive data analysis. Reassess and reevaluate.
- Recognition that waterways throughout the Tasman District provide multiple benefits (e.g. ecological, economic, and aesthetic values) to residents and visitors, and caution against their exploitation or destruction by some.
- Importance of the connectedness of ecosystems from the mountains to the sea and appropriate native species to maximise ecosystem health for freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems.

Suggested wording changes from submitters:

- Request that the outcome definition be more succinct, with the detail and complexity of factors in (a)-(f) to be moved into the value description. Suggested wording: "*Healthy waterbodies, including their beds, banks and margins, support a range of habitat values.*"

- Request for greater clarity and consistency regarding terminology e.g. margins, ecological flood plains, and riparian zones, with examples and easy-to-use resources for landowners.
- Amend to: "*Healthy waterbodies […] support a range of natural habitat values including: […] (f) connections to estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems; and (g) natural substrate and available woody material.*"
- Query the exclusion of 'flood plains related to natural hazard risk' from the definition of 'ecological flood plains'. Have 'flood plains related to natural hazard risk' been mapped, and how would their exclusion affect environmental outcomes relating to natural form and character, and resilience to climate change?

3.4 Outcome 4 – Ecosystem Health *aquatic life*

The ecosystem health of Tasman's waterbodies and their margins support diverse indigenous communities of biota, including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish, frogs, lizards, bats and birds, in a healthy and abundant state.

From the online survey, 63 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 2 respondents disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Emphasis on indigenous aquatic life: indigenous communities need to be enhanced and supported rather than hindered; agree with this statement providing indigenous species remain the primary focus of all the Outcomes; trout as non-indigenous species should be removed from rivers as they are a predator and threat to mahinga kai.
- Emphasis on indigenous and introduced aquatic life: Caution with the focus on indigenous species, a compromise that allows for both indigenous and introduced species should be achievable; ecosystem health should not just include native fish spawning, but also fishing values including trout habitat and spawning as provided for in the Water Conservation Order.
- Recognise that, subject to storm events, freshwater quality supports healthy waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems.
- Ability for rivers to have residual flow during droughts is important for aquatic life, e.g. the Wai-iti has already lost surface-flow this year (2023) and on many occasions does not reach the confluence with the Wairoa.
- The connectivity of both aquatic and riparian habitats is also important, allowing for the movement of species up- and down-stream and through the landscape.
- Adverse environmental impacts are not site specific due to the interconnectedness of the river system and marine environment, impacting habitat and water quality upstream and downstream of an event. Ensure that water taken by farmers does not impact water levels downstream.
- Specific comments: discharging into waterways is unacceptable, diluted or not; there is a need for a second backup system for sewerage disposal; total mitigation of nitrate runoff from agriculture is required; remove toxic algae as water is so toxic that fish are unable to survive.
- Some water bodies support particular values that would merit explicit reference, e.g. braided rivers as a habitat for nesting birds.

Feedback specific to the wording of the outcome statement includes:

- It is not focussed on 'aquatic life', as margins include terrestrial fauna and flora that are not aquatic. Confusing to include nonaquatic species; suggest that the environmental outcome statement address the two habitats (aquatic and riparian) separately.
- Define "healthy" and "abundant" with numerical values; the words lack meaning. Numerical population targets should be justified by the carrying capacity of the ecosystem.
- Make more succinct and move the detail to the value description, e.g. *The ecosystem health of Tasman's waterbodies and their margins support diverse indigenous communities of biota in a healthy and abundant state.*
- Add the following words to the value description: *The abundance and diversity of biota including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish and birds are protected from further degradation.*
- There is no need for the environmental outcome to list of all the potential biota that is to be supported by waterbodies, particularly given the list is non-exhaustive.
- The value description should account for regenerating damaged ecosystem as well as preventing further damage.

3.5 Outcome 5 – Ecosystem Health *ecological processes*

The healthy condition of water bodies and their margins provides for ecological processes and the interactions between indigenous species and their habitats, including: a) Feeding and roosting b) Migration c) Reproduction d) Refuges that enable recolonisation following disturbance e) Primary production, nutrient cycling and trophic connectivity.

From the online survey, 63 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome; 1 disagreed.

Comments received include:

- TDC should be encouraging regenerative farming systems and riparian/wetland creation to limit nutrients and inorganic chemicals (e.g. nitrates and phosphates) from entering river and groundwater systems.
- The outcome statement does not consider how matters must be balanced every day, e.g. the vegetable growers on the plains use a lot of nitrogen because we all want vegetables when it suits us including in the shoulder seasons and often out of season.
- Provide evidence for the use of indigenous species given the long existence of introduced species. More detail on how "invasive" species will be dealt with, and the role humans play. Inclusion of a range of species, not solely focussing on indigenous but also introduced.
- Stop spraying roundup in the whole district; remove toxic algae; stop intensive farming.

Comments related to word changes and definitions include:

- Change the wording to: *High quality interactions among biota and their physical and chemical environment such as the carbon cycle, including decomposition, nutrient cycling and trophic connectivity*. Because (a) it is the high quality of the interactions which is important, and (b) the words 'primary production' risk confusion with farming, forestry, horticulture.
- Amend as follows: *…and the natural interactions between…*
- Suggest rewriting: *The healthy condition of water bodies and their margins fundamentally supports healthy ecological processes longitudinally, laterally and vertically through the landscape.*

- Clear definitions needed for: 'primary production' and the extent of 'margins' to understand the application of rules on land adjacent to the waterbody.
- This outcome is too complex and repeats other outcomes – recommend it be deleted.

3.6 Outcome 6 – Human contact

Water quality is safe for human contact. The healthy mauri (life supporting capacity) and natural aesthetics and amenity of water bodies support recreational use and enjoyment of water through a range of activities.

From the online survey, 61 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 4 disagreed.

Comments from the feedback include:

- People should only connect with the water where natural values will not be affected. Some of the listed activities in the value description are detrimental to an environmentally healthy waterbody and will be destructive of the natural values.
- Swimming and other recreational activities: To always be able to swim in our river; want to see better rivers that are actually swimmable rather than 'wadeable'; if water isn't safe for swimming, fishing, and gathering kai, it should be remediated; promote safe swimming, boating and watersports and food gathering access for all water users without eliminating or promoting any one group; return Lake Killarney to a swimmable condition.
- Boating, fishing, and water sports need to be restricted when they could impact negatively on other humans' enjoyment, and natural lifeforms' ability to sustain life, in those spaces.
- Supporting flow management is important for human contact. Irrigation takes from the Takaka River slows the river's flow, encouraging algae growth and reducing swimmability.
- Sources of pollution/contaminants are a concern for human contact with waterways: Community illness from farming and bovine faeces is an issue with stock in riverbeds; stop releasing Motueka's wastewater into soak pits that contaminate the river and sea; oil spills, arsenic and creosote on wooden piers, limestone from concrete bullheads; remove toxic algae from rivers; there is an influx of baleage plastic into the Buller River on a large industrial scale; keep motorbikes and off-road vehicles out of waterways.
- Riverside farm dumps are a big problem in the Buller River with farm equipment, crashed cars, mining equipment and fencing wire which are all dangerous to kayakers, rafters, fishermen, swimmers, etc.
- Identify specific swimming spots or culturally significant sites to alleviate the need to encompass the entire river as the central point of attention.
- Provide for human contact without allowing unrestricted public access to all waterways which can jeopardise effective land management by private landowners. There should be legal agreements where private ownership is involved.

Wording changes or additions to the value statement that were suggested by submitters:

- The outcome statement only addresses water quality component, but it should also consider the quantity of water required (flows/water levels) for recreational use and enjoyment.
- *<u>Except where natural conditions degrade freshwater quality or quantity</u>, ~~W~~water quality is safe for human contact.*

- *The healthy mauri (life supporting capacity), ecosystem health and natural aesthetics and amenity of water bodies support appropriate recreational use and enjoyment of water through a range of activities within both the waterbody and in the associated riparian and floodplain areas.*
- The life-supporting capacity (mauri) of waterbodies is addressed via a number of other draft environmental outcomes; and this draft environmental outcome defines mauri as life supporting capacity, whereas other draft outcomes refer to it being about vital energy and life supporting capacity. Use consistent language.
- The outcome should be clear, being that *water quality is safe for human contact*; delete all words after that.
- Simplify outcome and value description to say water quality enables safe primary and secondary contact recreation.
- There is ambiguity of 'safe for human contact', as this could mean swimmability or wadeability. Prefer: *Water quality is safe for human contact (swimming).*
- Amend the value description as follows: *Supporting people to connect with the water through swimming, children's play, waka, boating, fishing, mahinga kai, and water recreation that does not compromise private landowners land management.*
- Amend the value description: *Enabling people to connect with the water through passive, quiet activities.*
- Amend: *...a range of activities that do not adversely affect natural values*; remove reference to specific activities: *People connecting with the water through activities that do not adversely affect natural values.*

3.7 Outcome 7 – Mahinga kai (food and resource gathering)

Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are thriving, providing abundant mahinga kai, food and resource gathering. Mahinga kai resources are safe to harvest and eat, are accessible to tangata whenua for customary use, and communities can transfer knowledge about traditional practices for the next generation.

From the online survey, 60 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 6 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

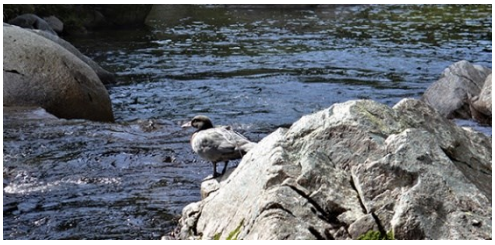
- Mahinga kai should only be taken if there are no great impacts on numbers of fish and plant life and in particular with awareness of ecosystem interconnections (where harvest of a particular species often has wider ecosystem effects).
- Action needs to be taken to prevent the total loss of kai.
- Does it only apply to tangata whenua? Available to all, not just customary use.
- The management of these values should be scientifically validated, not restricted by what was practical in a partially hunter-gatherer, small village lifestyle.
- Private ownership needs to be considered and represented legally when making resources accessible to tangata whenua for customary use.
- Need to strike a balance between public access and land management, to ensure that mahinga kai resources remain available to both the public and private landowners while safeguarding the health of the environment and the well-being of our communities.
- Focus on indigenous resources, not introduced ones.

- Specific concerns about activities impacting on mahinga kai: Stop the leakage from soak pits contaminating the Motueka River and sea as it limits harvesting ability; stop wastewater overflows into wildlife habitat; impacts from farming (land and marine) on mahinga kai need to be assessed in Golden Bay; shift the sewage ponds away from waterways and ocean.
- Improve the riparian margin along the Pitfure to improve whitebait and trout populations.

Wording changes suggested by submitters:

- Amend value description: *Enabling gathering of food, tools, medicines and other resources and providing for manaakitanga <u>where it doesn't reduce overall abundance</u>*.
- Make more succinct, suggest: *Mahinga kai resources are plentiful, safe to harvest and eat, accessible to tangata whenua for customary use, enable traditional knowledge to be passed to the next generation, and enable manaakitanga to be provided for.*
- The state of mahinga kai could be assessed using mātauranga Māori monitoring approaches, and this should be added to the value description, which presently reads more as an outcome. Note that mahinga kai is more than just indigenous species, watercress for example is a commonly harvested non-indigenous crop.
- This outcome, and the one below, both seek that indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are thriving. Amend as follows*: ~~Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are thriving, providing abundant mahinga kai, food and resource gathering~~. Mahinga kai resources are safe to harvest ~~and eat~~, are accessible to tangata whenua for customary use, and communities can transfer knowledge about traditional practices for the next generation.*
- *<u>Except where natural conditions degrade freshwater quality or quantity</u>, indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are thriving…*
- Non-indigenous species may also be used for mahinga kai and resource gathering, suggest alternative first sentence as follows: *<u>Waterbodies and their margins provide</u> abundant mahinga kai <u>and opportunities</u> for food and resource gathering.*

3.8 Outcome 8 – Threatened species



Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are thriving and the habitats of threatened species and the conditions necessary to support their survival, abundance and recovery are protected and improved.

From the online survey, 64 respondents agree with the draft environmental outcome and 2 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Increase funding for predator control in community-based groups, supported by council.
- Dog walking along riverbeds and banks needs to be restricted to areas where native birds and other fauna will not be disturbed, especially during nesting seasons.
- Stricter rules on feral and domestic cats.
- Prohibit canyoning on rivers in National Parks, not conductive to whio reproduction.
- Prohibit nitrogen fertiliser use in the district.
- Stop overfishing of whitebait.
- Prioritise indigenous species over introduced; trout to be removed; downgrade protection given to trout due to their impact on native invertebrates particularly whitebait.
- There is a potential conflict with the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the provisions for managing habitats of threatened species within plantation forests.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *Habitats of all species are protected and improved in order to support the survival and strengthening of the entire ecosystem*.
- Amend the value description as follows: *Supporting threatened species presence, abundance survival, recovery and increase.*
- Repetitive. Simplify as follows: *Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are protected and improved.*

3.9 Outcome 9 – Natural form and character

All waterbodies and their margins have high natural character values, including:

a. natural biophysical, ecological, geological, geomorphological and morphological aspects;
b. natural movement of water and sediment, including hydrological and fluvial processes;
c. natural location of a water body and course of a river, including room to move and adapt;
d. relative dominance of indigenous flora and fauna;
e. the presence of culturally significant species;
f. natural colour of the water; and
g. natural clarity of the water.

From the online survey, 61 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 3 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- There is little that is natural about our lowland waterbodies which have been modified into narrow channels, dammed, bled of water by irrigators, denuded of vegetation and hemmed in by development. We can never put them back to what they were.
- Need to recognise that a lot of historical changes are irreversible and that many waterways cannot be restored to their original state; the current wording requires retrospective restoration work that is impractical to undertake.
- We can still protect the water courses and habitats at the more elevated levels but at lower levels we must restore flows, widen the channels and plant riparian corridors where possible, along rivers and streams to cool the water and protect habitats.
- Allowing watercourses to inhabit their floodplains will be important to protect natural ecosystems, as well as human communities and infrastructure.
- Allowing waterbodies room to move and adapt may adversely affect some existing infrastructure including roads, urban areas, productive land and farm infrastructure.
- Specific comments regarding land use activities: Volume of sediment entering the Motueka catchment, from logging and roading activities, is unacceptable; stop using nitrogenous fertiliser and fence off all waterways to stock; how does this deal with highly modified land and where there are bridges and culverts?

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- It is unreasonable to expect that this outcome will be obtained in all Freshwater Management Units, and (a) to (f) describe the features of waterbodies, rather than describing an outcome that is sought. Delete entirely.

- Clarification sought on: Need to know the extent of "margins"; the meaning of "(d) relative dominance of indigenous flora and fauna"; what is included in "culturally significant species"? (e); what does "natural colour" and "natural clarity" of water mean? Does this include colour during and after storm events?
- More succinct, suggest: *The natural character of waterbodies and their margins is maintained*.
- *All waterbodies and their margins are protected from further degradation of ~~have high~~ natural character values, including:*
- *c. natural location of a water body and course of a river, including room to move and adapt while ensuring existing infrastructure such as roads, housing and productive land are protected;*
- Amend value description as follows: *Protecting where possible natural processes and biological, physical and visual characteristics of waterbodies*.
- It will not be practicable to achieve high natural character values for all waterbodies at all locations and a more nuanced approach will be needed. Some specific goals should be to:
    - retain areas with high natural character values in their current state;
    - avoid further degradation or loss of natural character values where;
    - restore natural character values, where practicable; and
    - identify and map values at a finer scale – this would be helpful in determining the outcomes sought for specific or parts of waterbodies.

3.10 Outcome 10 – Drinking water supply

Source water used for human drinking water requires minimal treatment to meet Drinking Water Standards. Water allocation for domestic and community water supplies is prioritised above other water uses.

From the online survey, 60 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 4 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- The ecological outcome is more important than drinking water supply; this outcome should be met once outcomes 1-9 have been achieved.
- Fresh water for drinking by New Zealanders is a right, not a privilege.
- Human needs and environmental needs are on a par, one cannot be put ahead of the other.
- Clarify whether the intention is for water allocation for domestic and community water supplies to be prioritised above other abstractive uses, or over all other uses (including non-abstractive ones)?
- Protect drinking water sources: Drinking water needs to be managed by the local authority to ensure sources are protected and long lasting; in our community there are many on bores, the aquifer should continue to be protected; drinking water supply is being challenged by land use changes and intensification.
- Reduce household use of potable water and create incentives for people to save water; encourage better use of on-site water storage (tanks) before increasing takes from natural supplies and disrupting connectivity (e.g. building dams); water supply restrictions should not favour commercial use, instead these businesses should invest in winter storage options.
- Every household and commercial unit should be able to provide its own water in an emergency i.e. have water storage, tanks or dams.

- Test all water for nitrates and glyphosate; strongly object to the proposed addition of fluoride to drinking water; concerns about nitrate levels in Richmond's drinking water.
- The warming climate may affect water supplies, so we need to prepare for that without delay.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *Water allocation for domestic and community drinking water supplies is prioritised above other water uses*.
- Remove the last sentence of the outcome.

3.11 Outcome 11 – Wai tapu

We respect and treasure our special waters and interconnected places. Healthy mauri (life supporting capacity) of water provides for the well-being, energy and peace of mind of people. Wai tapu are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment. Valued features, unique properties and identified taonga of waters are protected.

From the online survey, 59 respondents agree with the draft environmental outcome and 5 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Would all love pristine water everywhere. But how do we balance it all?
- Does not address situations where wai tapu sites are degraded due to natural processes, i.e. sediment and bank erosion during flood events.
- If wai throughout the Waimea FMU is considered to be tapu in general, it would be unrealistic to adopt an outcome where wai is entirely free from human waste.
- Have issue with wai tapu being free from animal waste. eDNA testing shows that water bodies include waste from feral animals and also birds.
- Respect for water is essential. Poor quality water either endangers life and health, or costs lots of $ to clean after it's been polluted.
- Keep sources of waste and other pollutants well away from water sources.
- Mention first the warming climate and what this may mean for wai tapu in the future.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- Need to understand what "valued features", "unique properties" and "identified taonga" of water are before we can protect them.
- Refine to just the last two sentences of the outcome.
- *Unless consented, wai tapu are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment.*
- Add: *Exceptions are acknowledged where natural processes may result in degradation of wai tapu sites*.
- Delete the outcome altogether. Recognising water as a respected and treasured resource, which provides for the peace of mind of people, are immeasurable and it is unclear what actions (if any) could be undertaken by the Council to achieve this outcome.

3.12 Outcome 12 – Transport and tauranga waka

The navigability of freshwater bodies for waka and watercraft is protected, except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological, or cultural values are at risk. Waterbodies are accessible at safe, appropriately located public launching and landing sites.

From the online survey, 56 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 6 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Navigability only applies where beds are owned by the Crown.
- Permit public accessibility without jeopardising effective land management by private landowners or undermining the effective stewardship of farms.
- Navigability will be determined by the river and should not become an artificial item to manage, particularly if a waterway becomes unnavigable due to natural causes.
- Motorised watercraft on our rivers is a huge environmental hazard – allow human powered craft only; agree on the condition that power boats and jet skis are banned from rivers; this should be the case for non-motorised craft – most inland waterways should be closed to I/C powered vessels whose exhausts and lubricants are discharged to the water.
- Exceptions for cultural values are important and should be upheld.
- Keep public access and use of launching and landing sites available to all and not limited to any one type of vessel or watercraft; public launching sites for larger boats should be at suitable sites in estuaries or on the open coast.
- Agree the public health & safety and ecological values need protection if at risk; It's important to protect natural soundscapes, for households living and holidaying nearby water and for the local ecosystems; educate people that vehicles must be cleaned before entering waterways to avoid transmission of invasive weeds or toxic blooms.
- I don't think any waka should be allowed on fully protected springs.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- Amend the value description: *providing for places to launch, land and use waka and boats <u>that does not compromise private landowners land management</u>*.
- Change the Value Description: *places to launch, land and use waka and boats*.
- The value description needs to be expanded to not only refer to the physical safety of waterbodies, but also the acceptability (from an ecological or cultural perspective) of craft using waterbodies.

3.13 Outcome 13 – Hydroelectric generation

Where freshwater is suitable, hydroelectric generation is recognised and provided for, including small and community-scale generation, to enable electricity security and meeting of renewable electricity generation targets. Existing generation is protected and upgrading enabled.

From the online survey, 56 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 9 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- What criteria will be used to determine if freshwater is "suitable", what is "small and community-scale", and what will fall within the scope of "upgrading"?
- Water Conservation Orders requiring waters to be retained in their natural state – cannot have hydro-electric or abstraction activities.
- Hydroelectric generation needs to be conditional on insignificant anticipated environmental degradation and continued use dependent on no significant degradation arising.
- Water used for hydro electricity generation should also be available for secondary purposes (i.e. abstracted for irrigation further downstream).
- This is inconsistent with maintaining the natural character of water bodies; use of alternative natural energy like wind turbines is less likely to impact the environment and natural waterways; do not flood any further natural and native bush areas, as with the construction of the Waimea Dam and DOC land traded; increase capacity at existing sites before damming new rivers.
- Support for small run of river hydro where infrastructure is low-key and pen stocks are buried; small, local, no substantial dams.
- Protecting fish populations and ensuring fish passage is important.
- Community groups should be given priority over individuals for what should be a community resource to protect and enhance.
- A society built on perpetual growth is entirely unsustainable.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *Hydroelectric generation can only occur where there is an environmentally sustainable flow in waterways and if minimum low flows can be protected.*
- Change the Value Description to read: "*Use of water for electricity generation, while maintaining environmentally sustainable flows in waterways*".
- Amend the value description to: *Enabling use of water for electricity generation while ensuring that this does not affect the ability of all users in the same water management area to take and use fresh water*.

3.14 Outcome 14 – Fishing

Freshwater ecosystems are thriving, supporting fisheries of species allowed to be caught and eaten. Fish abundance and diversity provide a range in species and size of fish.

From the online survey, 53 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 6 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Supporting fisheries of native or introduced species depends on no significant environmental degradation; healthy, thriving freshwater ecosystems should be dominated by native species.
- For waterbodies with outstanding trout fisheries, the protection and management of the trout fishery is probably more important than maintaining a diversity of species that may be caught and eaten.
- Protecting species abundance should be paramount. Fishing for native species should only be possible when/where this doesn't compromise natural occurrence.

- Adhere to the principles of existing Water Conservation Orders and expand these to other Tasman waters.
- While fishing for recreation and sustenance is important, there is a strong need to prioritise the protection and preservation of native fish species and their habitats; further work required to protect native fish species, and not just for whitebaiting; indigenous endangered species should not be allowed to be caught and eaten.
- Opposition to introduced fish species: Trout should be treated as exotic pests; our rivers will never support the native macro vertebrate biodiversity that they used to while trout are encouraged and protected; disagree – native fish only; eels great, trout no; reduce trout numbers to protect native endemic fish species; do not support the introduction of trout into waterbodies where trout are currently absent; exotic fish populations must be managed to safeguard natural habitats.
- Some coarse fish species (perch, rudd, tench) are identified as pests in the Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Plan and should not be introduced to any waterbody or promoted as a resource for fishing.
- Clarify if this value relates to recreational or commercial fishing.
- Provided the fish in question can support the take – local fishponds are excellent; it's a food source so it requires us to be good caretakers and not deplete stocks.
- Game fish should be harvested by all with the aim of reducing their abundance.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- The amenity of a fishing spot would influence the quality of the experience that a fisherperson had, and could be reflected in the outcome as follows: *Fish size, abundance and diversity support recreational fisheries.*
- *Native freshwater fish are protected from over-fishing and exotic freshwater fish are fished to a level that prevents them from having significant adverse effect on native fish, insects and vegetation.*
- Definitions of "thriving", "abundance" and "diversity" need to be established.

3.15 Outcome 15 – Irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages

Freshwater resources are equitably and efficiently allocated to support the production of food, including the supply of domestic fruit and vegetables, beverage crops, farmed animals, non-food crops, such as fibre and timber, and the irrigation of recreational areas. Water quality is suitable for irrigation needs.

From the online survey, 47 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 10 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- The relative value of each outcome needs to be made clear. Currently the values are tipped towards supporting irrigation at the expense of water quality or human access.
- Outcome to include that use of water for irrigation, food production etc. does not result in deterioration of water quality in downstream water bodies (including aquifers); freshwater uses for primary industry should cause no significant environmental degradation.
- Ensure any allocation has minimal impact on the required water for natural ecosystems, particularly during times of low flow (& applies to Outcomes 16 & 17); realistic minimum flows

must be established and monitored on all tributaries and main rivers; agree, provided water is not over allocated and the health of our rivers suffers; be cautious about allowing for more irrigation. Only possible when outcomes related to stream/ecosystem health are not compromised (natural flows, etc).

- Ensuring reliable and sufficient water supply for irrigation and livestock needs is crucial for agricultural operations, especially during dry periods; flexible water management strategies and adaptive water management plans enable farmers and communities to cope with droughts, floods, or other extreme weather events.
- Irrigation allocations should be attached to the land and all suitable land should be allocated a portion of the water they can use or lease to another user. This would allow all productive land to be used to full potential and promote efficient water use; food security is important therefore need efficient allocation and distribution of water resources; constraint on the availability of water for land-based primary industry has the potential for significant adverse economic and social impacts, both regionally and nationally.
- Much higher standards should be required for irrigation and industrial water use and an absolute ban on trading water rights on secondary markets; irrigation of food crops that support human health should be given priority over beverage and non-food crops, and irrigation of recreational areas; should not apply to timber – if the trees planted for crops need extra water to survive, they need to be replaced with a species that doesn't require water; the need to irrigate shows that the producer has exceeded his resources to support his activity.
- Water in our lakes, rivers and streams is a finite resource and with a growing population in the region, expectations around the availability of freshwater resources need to be managed.
- Irrigation in NZ is very wasteful, spray irrigation should not be permitted, set a high per litre charge to incentivise efficiency.
- Encourage organic and regenerative farming and horticulture. These systems use less water and produce much less contamination of waterbodies.
- Production should be climate dependent and adapt rather than extending existing use rights.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- Arguably, freshwater to support farmed animals is provided for directly in Outcome 16 and does not need to be duplicated in outcome 15.
- Define "equitably"; the title should be altered to include "fibre" after the word "food".
- *Sufficient volumes of clean water are available for irrigation of food crops etc.*
- Add: *While ensuring water quality in maintained and not degraded though pesticides, fertilisers and base level flows maintained*
- The various examples within the outcome are unnecessary.

3.16 Outcome 16 – Animal drinking water

The quality of source water used for drinking water for farmed animals is palatable and safe. Animal drinking water is allocated during droughts to provide for animal welfare.

From the online survey, 59 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 4 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- It is vitally important for farmers to continue to have access to livestock drinking water; any allocation regime needs to ensure that sufficient water is allocated for animal drinking water; water should be allocated on farms and no cattle let into streams
- Animal welfare must be looked after but stocking intensity should be monitored long term especially in drought conditions; removing stock may be necessary in times of drought to protect the health of the water source; water allocation for animal welfare during droughts must not cause environmental degradation.
- The health of waterways must come first; the waterway health in the long term should be the primary consideration and breaching water limits or animals in waterways during a drought should not be enabled; proper stock exclusion and riparian planting in natives would be a good start; fence off all properties beside the waterways.
- Stock exclusion is not always a good idea. In waterways that dry out completely, stock grazing is a very useful and inexpensive way of keeping the waterway clear.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *Subject to storm events…* and define storm events in the value description.
- Remove the word *palatable*. There is no need for farm animals to have a pleasant taste.

3.17 Outcome 17 – Commercial and industrial use

Freshwater resources are equitably and efficiently allocated to support economic opportunities for people, businesses and industries. Water quality is suitable for commercial and industrial needs.

From the online survey, 47 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 10 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Balance the desires for human development with the need for environmental protection; prioritise environmental well-being over short-term economic gains; the short, long term and cumulative effects of commercial use need to be considered in the consent process; TDC should never allow or encourage market driven water allocation systems, e.g. tradeable water rights.
- Water is a public common and should not be owned or privatised; water bottling companies should be banned; stop intensification.
- Water volumes for all our rivers and tributaries should be maintained; allocation needs to be based on robust science and, if in drought, water supply needs reducing then this should happen; provided water is not over-allocated.
- Only as long as the resource is available and the use is fair and reasonable; as long as the water quality, quantity and ecological health is preserved; Te Mana o te Wai must come first. Previously the use for commercial purposes has been too high in the hierarchy causing significant losses in water flow and quality.
- As long as economic and industrial wants do not impinge on ecosystem and community needs; businesses must contain any polluted output to prevent contamination of nearby waterways; water exiting industrial use should be of adequate quality to re-enter waterways; keep stock out of our waterways, even on private land.
- Research the reuse of grey water etc. for commercial and industrial needs; provided that those benefiting from economic opportunities are paying for it; only when stream health is not compromised.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- Remove the last sentence of the outcome.
- Outcome to include that use for water for irrigation, food production etc. does not result in deterioration of water quality in downstream water bodies (including aquifers).
- Define 'equitable'; define and quantify 'commercial and industrial activities'.
- Objectives should be included in the Regional Plan:
    - to control suitable gross pollutants (larger than 5mm in size),
    - for the identification of emerging contaminants, such as micro and nanoplastics and PFAS,
    - to include the minimisation of impermeable areas,
    - the requirement to create a private asset register for stormwater infrastructure.

3.18 Outcome 18 – Public access

Access to water bodies and their margins is maintained and enhanced to provide for tangata whenua and community relationships and connections with water through a range of activities and shared uses (except in circumstances where public health and safety, ecological, or cultural values are at risk). Public access is protected through public ownership or legal agreements.

From the online survey, 57 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 7 disagreed.

- Identifying specific swimming spots or culturally significant sites is a prudent approach and will alleviate the need to encompass the entire river as the central point of attention.
- Carparks should be provided at suitable spots and vehicles, including motorbikes should be banned/prevented from driving along stop banks and on riverbeds; private vehicles traversing the riverbed is damaging to the clarity of the water and damages the habitat of nesting birds; swimming holes and popular access spots should have clear limits of vehicle access.
- We should not be encouraging walking or cycling pathways along long stretches of a river in order to protect nesting birds and biodiversity from people and their dogs; running of dogs in the river beds at nesting season should be banned.
- Maintaining ecologically healthy waterways is a higher priority than allowing public access as we are so totally dependent on healthy waterways for our very survival; remove rubbish and other foreign bodies from waterways and riparian zones; public education on proper disposal of baleage wrap.
- Make it clear that public access is subject to private property rights; public access needs to be protected; all members of the public, including tangata whenua should have access to waterways; specific tangata whenua access should only be for specific small areas; negotiate more permanent access ways to rivers in the region.
- have better signage letting people know that the river is accessible in places.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *This public access shall only be provided as long as private landowners land management is not compromised or undermined*.
- Shorten to: *Public access to waterbodies and their margins is maintained and enhanced to provide for tangata whenua and community relationships with waterbodies.*

3.19 Outcome 19 – Aggregate resources

Aggregate resources within water bodies and their margins or overlying aquifers are managed to support economic and social opportunities for people, businesses and industries, except where ecosystem health, human health needs, natural character or cultural values may be adversely affected.

From the online survey, 51 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 9 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Remove gravel buildup from rivers to improve minimum flows and reduce flood damage; protect riparian zones and allow rivers to naturally move and spread during floods; gravel extraction from rivers should occur where there is a threat to infrastructure, homes, or productive land from potential flooding; constraining our rivers to their present channels has created situations where there are now numerous rivers where the build-up of gravel exacerbates flooding.
- Where possible, gravel extraction and river works by commercial entities and adjoining landowners should be facilitated and encouraged, so that the cost to ratepayers is minimised.
- The health of waterways ecosystems must come first, not the economic benefits sought by businesses who want to expand their trade; Te Mana o te Wai, or the health of the river, must be the primary factor to consider when resource consent applications or aggregate removal projects are being considered.
- If there is a need for the resource ensure that it is managed proactively and that it does not affect but, enhances the environment and heath of the ecosystem; the establishment of gravel islands as a result of aggregate extraction has provided ideal nesting sites for a variety of birds. It is a positive side effect of gravel extraction.
- Recent evidence of gravel extraction activities shows clear adverse sedimentation impacts; if the river has room to flow less erosion occurs; there needs to be strong oversight of any aggregate extraction to ensure that ecosystem health has not been compromised in any way.

3.20 Outcome 20 – Resilience to climate change

Our waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems have room to move and adapt and are resilient to the effects of climate change, including droughts, flooding and sea level rise. Waterbody refuges and connectivity enable recolonisation following disturbance. Our communities are resilient to the effects of climate change on our freshwater resources, including droughts, flooding and sea level rise.

From the online survey, 55 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 8 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Incorporate adaptive management strategies that account for climate change into water quality management; ensure minimum flows in rivers and streams consider climatic conditions.

- Ensure spatial planning, natural hazard protections, and managed retreat actions give waterbodies and related species and habitats room to absorb the effects of severe weather events and adapt; make better plans for climate change and be very careful about where we allow housing and have better river work to ensure safety during weather events.
- Our human communities need to give room for the freshwater ecosystems to move and adapt to climate change, rather than resisting and restraining them.
- Climate change has demonstrated the vulnerability of the Motueka and adjoining catchments to flash floods, sediment and forestry slash. Certain land should be retired and allowed to regenerate to native bush.
- Use composting toilets and greywater to reduce demand on potable water supplies and insecurity of wastewater treatment.
- For forestry and its slash, there should be a buffer zone around the block consisting of native bush planted as a filter

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *Ensuring waterbodies and communities are resilient <u>in adapting</u> to the effects of climate change, including droughts, flooding and sea level rise*.
- *…freshwater resources, including droughts, flooding and sea level rise <u>causing saline intrusion.</u>*
- The draft environmental outcome is overly complex and only needs to identify that waterbodies, ecosystems and communities are resilient to the effects of climate.
- The outcome should include restoring and providing room for rivers/streams (more) buffer capacity.
- This outcome should include water storage capabilities to provide resilience.

3.21 Outcome 21 – Kaitiakitanga / Stewardship

Our waterbodies have healthy mauri (vital energy and life supporting capacity) and are cared for and respected by our communities. People maintain strong relationships with waterbodies and their margins. The use of land, water and catchment resources is recognised as a privilege. Communities are enabled to be guardians, giving back to the catchments to ensure they are healthy for future generations.

From the online survey, 58 respondents agreed with the draft environmental outcome and 8 disagreed.

Comments from feedback include:

- Protect water resources for future generations.
- Continue to support initiatives such as catchment groups, which enable farmers and landowners to be actively involved in the management and protection of waterways; acknowledge and integrate local knowledge and firsthand experience in water management decision-making and primary production.
- Using the word ‘privilege’ is emotive and immeasurable and conflicts with the reasonable economic use of land conferred by private land ownership; recognising catchment resources as a privilege goes beyond the concept of water body and its margins.

- All people, not just tangata whenua should be responsible for the care of rivers, especially riparian landowners and ratepaying residents.
- I do not see a reference to Te Man o te Wai including its priorities - this should be included.

Suggested wording changes by submitters:

- *The use of land, water and catchment resources respects the intrinsic and societal values of those resources.*
- *Our waterbodies have healthy mauri (~~vital energy and~~ life supporting capacity) and are maintained for the benefit of future generations.* Delete the remainder of the outcome.
- *Our waterbodies have healthy mauri ~~(vital energy and life supporting capacity)~~ and are cared for and respected by our human communities.*
- *Communities are enabled to be guardians, ~~giving back to the catchments to ensure they are healthy for future generations~~ caring for catchments to ensure they remain healthy for flora, fauna and people.*
- Suggest deleting 'stewardship' and having just 'Kaitiakitanga' as the outcome title as these have two different approaches to care.

4. Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) Feedback on Environmental Outcomes

The Shape Tasman survey asked for community feedback on whether people wanted a specific outcome attributed to a particular waterbody or Freshwater Management Unit for each identified value. The following comments are a summary of the feedback relating to this FMU question and are gathered from the responses to the Shape Tasman survey, from Facebook comments, and emails.

4.1 General responses

General responses about the Environmental Outcomes in relation to Freshwater Management Units included:

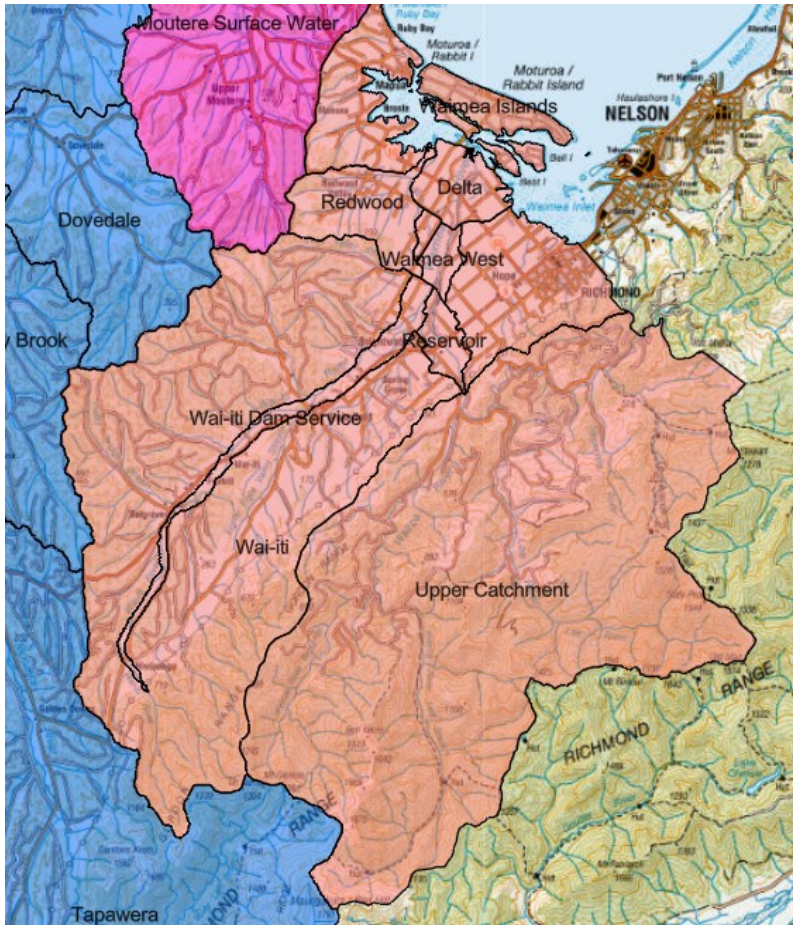
- The proposed freshwater management units differ greatly in scale and character, and environmental outcomes may therefore need to be refined or interpreted at an FMU or sub-FMU level. For example, there is natural variation in the chemical composition, flow regime and habitat characteristics of different waterbodies within and between FMUs, which will influence what constitutes “healthy waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems”.
- Braided rivers provide important habitats for several river-bed nesting bird species; and, for those rivers, retention of braided river habitat is a specific outcome that may get ‘lost’ in a more generic outcome statement.
- Outcome 1 Ecosystem Health Water Quality should be applied to all FMUs.
- Outcome 1 Ecosystem Health Water Quality should be applied regionwide.
- Outcome 10 Animal Drinking Water should be applied to all FMUs.
- All land use activities in all FMUs are monitored to ensure no discharges enter water that may cause adverse effects. Where adverse effects or discharges are observed follow with enforcement to ensure the discharges cease and behaviours are changed.
- Meeting the needs of communities may not achieve the environmental outcomes that are required in the NPS-FM.

4.2 Waimea FMU

Responses about the Environmental Outcomes in relation to the Waimea Freshwater Management Unit included:

- In the Waimea FMU, ensure that the changes in flow regimes resulting from the Waimea Dam do not adversely affect natural ecosystems through changes caused by weather extremes.

- Water for domestic food consumption should be elevated above other uses of irrigation (i.e. sports grounds) and to have this distinction made particularly in the following FMU's that have horticulture: Waimea FMU; Moutere FMU; Motueka-Riuwaka FMU; Takaka FMU; and the Deep Moutere Groundwater FMU. Alternatively, have domestic food supply recognised as a regional value.



- Outcome 15 Irrigation, cultivation and production of food and beverages should be applied to the Waimea FMU, where a significant quantity of food is grown, providing value locally and nationally with healthy food, food security, employment and economic benefits from exported products.
- Food production in the Waimea FMU should specifically be valued, prioritised, and provided for above recreational water use.
- Disagree with increasing the irrigated area within Waimea and other areas subject to water allocation questions.
- Resilience and room to move is especially important when permitting new developments, and proposals to narrow the floodplain of the Pitfure stream are foolish.
- Take gravel out of the Wai-iti and Waimea Rivers to get water flow.
- There is a loss of fish in the Gorge and Lee Rivers up to the Lee Valley Bridge.
- In Waimea, further limit access where watercraft conflict with other users.
- If wai throughout the Waimea FMU is considered to be 'tapu' in general, it would be unrealistic to adopt an outcome where wai is entirely free from human waste. Suggest the following underlined words are added. *<u>Unless consented</u>, wai tapu are free from human and animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment*.
- Consideration should be given to alternatives where the drinking water standard is not met on the Waimea Plains.
- Concerns about nitrate levels in Richmond drinking water.
- Riparian improvement along the Pitfure to improve Whitebait and trout populations to be instigated.
- Community illness from farming and bovine faeces is an issue. Stock can enter the riverbed in Brightwater.

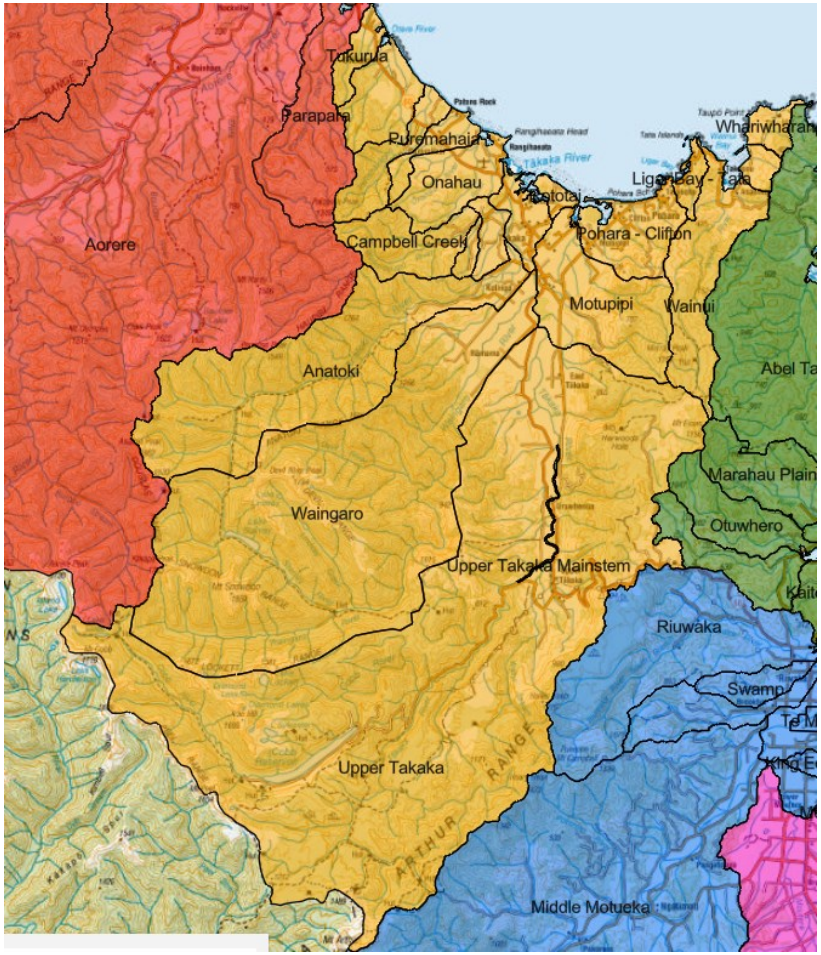
- Dog-walking, jet-skis and four-wheel-driving all cause significant damage to the ecological health and natural character of the lower reaches of the Waimea River.
- Remove cattle out of the Wairoa above Max's Pool.
- Ensure alterations to hydrology do not adversely affect natural ecosystems, as has happened as Snowdens Bush where a stream has been diverted away from the bush causing serious adverse effects.
- Ability for rivers to have residual flow during droughts is important for aquatic life. The Wai-iti has already lost surface-flow this year and does not reach the confluence with the Wairoa on many occasions.

4.3 Takaka FMU

Responses about the Environmental Outcomes in relation to the Takaka FMU included:

- Protection of sink holes from pollutants, even on private land, will be important in limestone/Karsten areas like Golden Bay.
- Dairying of the area we now know feeds the Waikoropupū Spring needs to stop.
- Golden Bay has a river through the back of town and the locals want the gravel removed.
- The Cobb scheme should be managed in a way which enhances summer low flows. To enable use of the higher flows for added value creation, i.e. irrigation.
- Use a precautionary approach to groundwater inputs, for example, dairying on farms whose soils feed the Waikoropupū Springs should be discontinued.

- There should not be any watercraft use at Pupu Springs.
- Prevent farmers allowing their stock to graze, drink, defecate and urinate on river flats and accessing the Takaka River.
- I'd like to see the Takaka and Aorere rivers maintained within their current channels, but don't support work to further intensify development in their flood plains.
- Impacts from farming (land and marine) on mahinga kai need to be assessed in Golden Bay.
- Return Lake Killarney to a swimmable condition.
- Take of water from the Takaka river for irrigation purposes slows the flow of the river encouraging the growth of algae and reduces swim ability.
- Need greater management of extraction of water for irrigation purposes from GB rivers.
- Excessive water extraction from the Takaka River impacts its flow and water quality.
- Parts of the Takaka river are currently farmed right up to the river side affecting ecosystem habitat.
- Sediment discharge in from the Takaka and Motupipi rivers have damaged the marine ecosystem in Golden Bay.
- Impacts from farming (land and marine) on mahinga kai need to be assessed in Golden Bay.

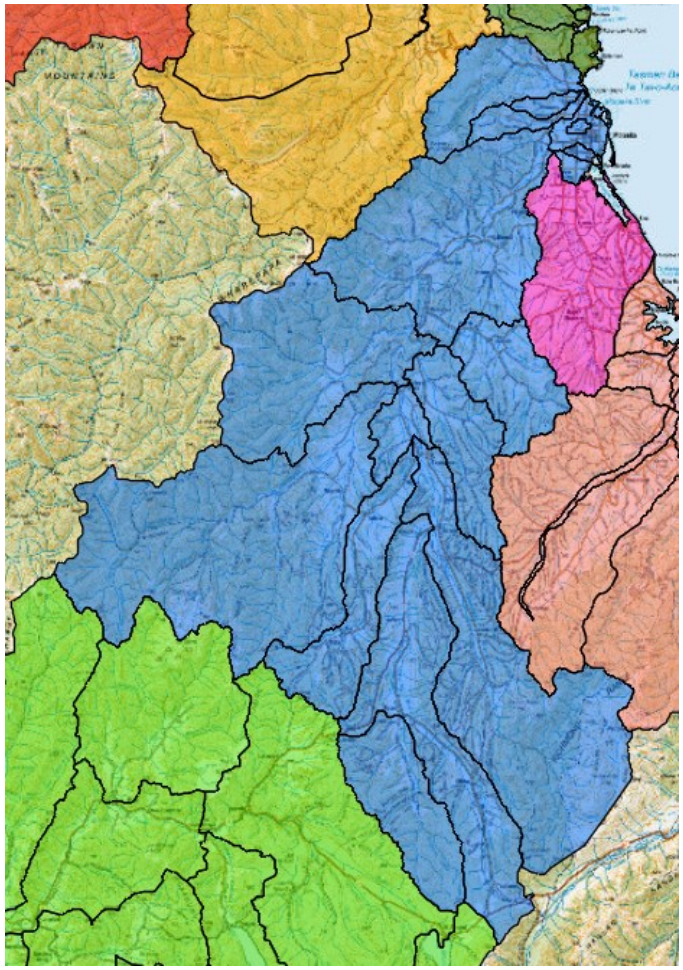


4.4 Moutere FMU

- Historic wastewater on-site soakage issues contaminating drinking water supplies in Kina and Tasman Township need urgent attention.
- Beach alerts for swimmers at Kina Beach needed so we don't go out and get sick when it's not safe.
- Attention needed regarding wetlands & cleaning up the Tasman Stream catchment.

4.5 Motueka FMU

- Stop releasing Motueka's wastewater into soak pits that contaminate the river and sea.
- Clean up the rubbish that's eroding into the Moutere river from the old dump site.
- Shaggery cows are still polluting the Motueka River from Blue Gum Tree corner up to Pokororo and Woodstock.
- Birdhurst cows are in the Motueka River.
- Effluent leaking out to the sea affecting the mouth of the Motueka, especially during whitebait season.
- The Motueka River must remain as an unmodified river system. No damming.
- The Motueka is popular for white-water kayaking & rafting and should continue.
- Clarification / evidence as to whether having drinking water which requires minimal treatment is realistic in high population areas or not, specifically, Motueka.
- Volume of sediment entering the Motueka catchment, from logging and roading activities, is unacceptable. Removal of forests on land where slope stability is a concern (in Separation Point Granite and other areas) should be stopped.



- Protect the flow in the Motueka River.
- The Dove River dries up annually leading to a degraded environment. Limiting commercial forestry in the catchment would lead to an improvement both in the river health and also the catchment soils.

- Remove shingle from under the Motueka bridge and other parts of the river near the end of Whakarewa Street to lower the river floor allowing for more flow below the bridge in flood events.
- Restrict farmers from taking water from the aquifer in Motueka and taking it to other drought-stricken areas in the region.

5. Feedback on Visions

Some submitters provided feedback on the common vision:

- The timeframe of 2100 is too far away and we suggest 2046.
- It is not necessary to use the word indigenous when referring to ecosystems.
- The NPS-FM does not say that we need to provide for agriculture and industry. It says that we must maintain and restore degraded waterways. So, the second paragraph of the common vision should be deleted and replaced with: *Ecosystem health is paramount and this will be achieved by sustainable and integrated land and management practices to protect the natural character of our aquifers, rivers, lakes, springs and wetlands*.
- Visions should not single out particular sectors for mention.
- A common vision that is cut and pasted for multiple catchments does not reflect the unique challenges and opportunities for improvement in each FMU.

6. Next Steps

The next stage is to refine and redraft the Environmental Outcomes using the feedback received and report these back to the community along with the draft Visions and Values for each of the eight Freshwater Management Units.

Given the uncertainty of recent Government announcements and its intention to replace the current NPSFM in 2026, it is unclear at this stage when further engagement will occur. However, as part of developing a Land and Freshwater Plan Change, we are committed to keeping the community and stakeholders up to date on freshwater matters.

In parallel with this release of information to the public, Council will work with its Te Tauihu iwi partners under the collaborative group workstream Te Puna Kōrero ki Te Tauihu. The aim is to bring the science and cultural aspects together to draft specific planning provisions that will feed into the draft Land and Freshwater Plan Change.

7. Appendix 1 – List of Values

Compulsory (applies to all FMU and surface waters)

Ecosystem health – water quality
Ecosystem health – water quantity
Ecosystem health – habitat
Ecosystem health – aquatic life
Ecosystem health – ecological processes
Human contact
Mahinga kai
Threatened species

Other Values (must be considered)

Natural form and character
Drinking water supply
Wai tapu
Transport and tauranga waka
Hydro-electric generation
Fishing
Irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages
Animal drinking water
Commercial and industrial use
Public access
Aggregate resources
Resilience to climate change
Kaitiakitanga / Stewardship