Ūawa Catchment Working Group

Long Term Vision, Values, Outcomes and Freshwater Management Units

18 September 2024

1. Introduction

At our last two hui we have discussed aspects of the vision, values, environmental outcomes and the freshwater management units within the catchment. Based on this korero a first draft "strawperson" has been developed for discussion.

1.1. Scene setting - the National Objectives Framework

A central part of the NPS-FM is a process called the National Objectives Framework. We have divided these steps into two broad stages:

1. **Stage 1: Identifying aspirations and goals for freshwater**
   - Identifying a Long-Term Vision
   - Identifying freshwater values
   - Defining Freshwater Management Units
   - Setting environmental outcomes
2. **Stage 2: Identifying how and when to achieve those goals**
   - Understanding attributes and baseline states
   - Setting targets and timeframes
   - Setting limits, methods and actions
   - Monitoring

2. Draft Long Term Vision Statement

The draft Long Term Vision Statement is an important part of the catchment plan and must be included as objectives in the regional policy statement. The NPSFM sets the following key requirements:

a) May be set at the FMU, part of an FMU, or catchment level – we recommend that the Long Term Vision for the Ūawa Catchment Plan is set at the catchment level;
b) Must set goals that are ambitious but reasonable; and
c) Identify a timeframe to achieve those goals that is both ambitious and reasonable (eg 30 years after commencement date).

Based on the korero through the hui so far a draft starting point for discussion of the Long Term Vision Statement is outlined below:

Freshwater in the Ūawa Catchment is the lifeblood of the whenua from the smallest puna to the largest awa. The catchment is cared for by kaitiaki in accordance with the

traditions, ancestral practices and tikanga of tāngata whenua who retain their strong connections to the waterways. Over the next 30 years:

a) *Changes in landuse practices mean that steep and unstable parts of the catchment are protected by forests that reduce erosion and improve the level of sedimentation of waterbodies;*
b) *Riparian areas and wetlands throughout the catchment are restored in a network of habitat areas and linkages within a supportive agriculture and forestry production system;*
c) *Freshwater plants, animals and ecosystems are a focus of restoration resulting in improved ability to support food gathering and mahinga kai;*
d) *Water quality within the catchment is maintained or improved to a level that supports the health of people;*
e) *Culture, traditions, access and whakapapa links to wai are revived enabling the people of the catchment to retain their identity;*
f) *The mauri of wetlands, rivers and springs are maintained, or restored to a standard that provides for the relationship of tāngata whenua to wai; and*
g) *Everyone who lives and works in the catchment is acknowledged for their role in enhancing the health of the wai.*

Questions:
Does this vision statement capture the key aspects of the Long Term Vision for the Ūawa Catchment – as a starting point for discussion with the wider community?

What aspects should change? Is there anything missing?

3. Freshwater Management Units

At our last hui we looked at several different options for freshwater management units and agreed on Option 2 – an Ūawa – Hikuwai and its coastal subcatchments as one FMU and a separate Maungahauini and its coastal subcatchments as a second FMU. This is shown on the map below. We propose that these be known as the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU (in green) and the Maungahauini FMU (in blue).

***Figure 1**: Ūawa Catchment Plan FMUs*

4. Draft Values

The draft values for the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU are contained within **Appendix 1**. Until we have had hui at Tokomaru Bay, we will not define these as Maungahauini FMU values.

The key things to note are:

- Almost all the national values are appropriate for the FMU. This means environmental outcomes will need to be developed for each of these values.

The following national values are not important in the FMU so are proposed to not be included in the catchment plan:

- Irrigation
- Commercial and industrial use

There are a range of Uawa -Hikuwai FMU specific values. These are also included in Appendix 1. Where possible I have provided a value description based on the korero to date. We haven't discussed all of the values in detail, so some of these may not be a correct reflection of the value in the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU.

Questions:
Have we correctly identified and described the values? Is there anything missing?

5. Draft Environmental Outcome Statements

For each value an environmental outcome statement has been drafted, based on the korero at the hui, and adapting the Ūawanui vision statement. These are also shown in Appendix 1.

The environmental outcome statements will eventually be developed into the Objectives for the Regional Freshwater Plan – Ūawa Catchment Plan. The NPSFM has this to say about environmental outcomes:

The environmental outcomes must:

1. *describe the environmental outcome sought for the value in a way that enables an assessment of the effectiveness of the regional policy statement and plans (including limits and methods) and action plans in achieving the environmental outcome; and*
2. *when achieved, fulfil the relevant long-term visions developed under clause 3.3 and the objective of this National Policy Statement*

This means that the environmental outcome must be specific to the freshwater value and how that value will be managed through the catchment plan. When added together the environmental outcomes should deliver on the long term vision.

A draft environmental outcome has been developed based on the korero to date. We haven't discussed all of the values in detail, so some of these may not be a correct reflection of the environmental outcome in the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU.

Questions:
How well do these draft environmental outcome statements express what should happen to freshwater in the Ūawa-Hikuwai FMU?

What changes need to be made? Is there anything missing?

Appendix 1: Draft Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU Values and Environmental Outcomes

NPSFM Values		
Ecosystem Health	**Value** The ability for Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU rivers to support thriving aquatic ecosystems enables people to thrive. Freshwater ecosystems include springs, rivers, wetlands and lakes and their health is fundamentally connected to the health of the land. Tangata whenua also recognise that their own wellbeing is intrinsically connected to the health of these ecosystems. There are 5 biophysical components that contribute to freshwater ecosystem health, and it is necessary that all of them are managed. They are: ***Water quality*** – the physical and chemical measures of the water, such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, suspended sediment, nutrients and toxicants ***Water quantity*** – the extent and variability in the level or flow of water ***Habitat*** – the physical form, structure, and extent of the water body, its bed, banks and margins; its riparian vegetation; and its connections to the floodplain and to groundwater *Aquatic life* – the abundance and diversity of biota including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish and birds ***Ecological processes*** – the interactions among biota and their	**Environmental Outcome** The water quality, quantity and habitats within the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU support resilient ecosystems with diverse and abundant native species. Waterbodies are managed and considered in their entirety including riparian areas and wetlands.

	physical and chemical environment such as primary production, decomposition, nutrient cycling and trophic connectivity. In a healthy freshwater ecosystem, all 5 components are suitable to sustain the indigenous aquatic life expected in the absence of human disturbance or alteration.	
Human Contact – Swimming	**Value** Many of the rivers and streams within the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU are used for swimming and bathing during the warmer months. Swimming is valued as a recreational activity to all within the FMU. Tangata whenua value swimming because it enables them to connect physically and spiritually with their awa and maintain their whakapapa to wai and strong relationships to place. Access and water quality impact peoples' ability to maintain strong connections to their waterways. Pathogens, water clarity, deposited sediment, plant growth (from macrophytes to periphyton to phytoplankton), cyanobacteria, other toxicants, and litter all impact on swimming values.	**Environmental Outcome** People are able to enjoy swimming and bathing in waterways that are safe and healthy with low levels of algal growth and deposited sediment throughout the catchment during the swimming season (Oct – April).
Mahinga kai	**Value** Mahinga kai is highly valued right across the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU. For this value kai must be safe to harvest and eat. Fundamental to mahinga kai is abundance. An abundant food	**Environmental Outcome** Native plants animals and ecosystems from the hills to the coast are well understood and managed to support long term food gathering

	source indicates a healthy waterway and reflects upon the ability and mana of whānau, hapū and iwi to exercise mana whakahaere, kaitiekitanga, and manaakitanga. Mahinga kai practices enable whānau, hapū and iwi members to maintain traditional practices and allow for intergenerational transfer of knowledge.	
Threatened Species	**Value** Despite a decline in abundance, remnant populations of threatened species are still present in the catchment. This includes tuna (long finned eel). To support the threatened species in the catchment all the components of ecosystem health must be managed, as well as the specialised habitat or conditions needed for only part of the life cycle of the threatened species.	**Environmental Outcome** The populations of species that have become threatened increase in the rivers, streams and wetlands. Fish passage is uninterrupted so that threatened species can maintain all parts of their life cycle. Riparian areas are sufficient in width and in good health to support breeding populations.
Natural Form and Character	**Value** Waterways within the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU are are valued for their natural form and character. While some parts of the FMU are highly modified, the headwater areas are relatively unmodified and able to express natural processes and patterns. Matauranga Māori through placenames and history contribute further to better understanding of natural form and character in place. Matters contributing to the natural form and character of an FMU are its biological, visual and physical characteristics, including:	**Environmental Outcome** The natural processes, connectivity to riparian areas and wetlands of waterbodies in the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU is retained and supported by a return to more natural rates of erosion. The resilience of waterways and riparian areas to mitigate impacts of climate change/ higher and more frequent rainfall is strengthened.

	its biophysical, ecological, geological, geomorphological and morphological aspects the natural movement of water and sediment including hydrological and fluvial processes the natural location of a water body and course of a river the relative dominance of indigenous flora and fauna the presence of culturally significant species the colour of the water the clarity of the water.	
Drinking Water supply	**Value** Water quality and quantity is sufficient for water to be taken and used for drinking water supply.	**Environmental Outcome** Activities are managed to protect the drinking water supplies of ahi kaa and marae.
Wai Tapu	**Value** Wai tapu represent the places where rituals and ceremonies are performed, or where there is special significance to tangata whenua. Rituals and ceremonies include, but are not limited to, tohi (baptism), karakia (prayer), waerea (protective incantation), whakatapu (placing of rāhui), whakanoa (removal of rāhui), and tuku iho (gifting of knowledge and resources to future generations). In providing for this value, the wai tapu are free from human and	**Environmental Outcome** Wai tapu are protected and continue to connect whanau and hapu to their whakapapa. Historic puna are recognised.

	animal waste, contaminants and excess sediment, with valued features and unique properties of the wai protected. Other matters that may be important are that there is no artificial mixing of the wai tapu and identified taonga in the wai are protected.	
Transport and Tauranga Waka	**Value** The Ūawa River and parts of the Hikuwai and Mangaheia Rivers have places to launch waka and appropriate places for waka to land (tauranga waka).	**Environmental Outcome** The waka culture of the Tolaga Bay community continues and is able to thrive.
Fishing	**Value** The numbers of kanae (mullet), inanga (whitebait) and tuna (long fin eel) are sufficient and suitable for people to consume.	**Environmental Outcome** The Ūawa River continues to support healthy populations of fish for fishing.
Animal Drinking Water	**Value** Water quality and quantity meets the needs of farmed animals, including where it is palatable and safe.	**Environmental Outcome** Stock are able to access safe and healthy drinking water, while not impacting on other values of the FMU.
Irrigation and Food Production	**Value** Water quality and quantity is suitable for irrigation and food production needs, including supporting the cultivation of food crops and the production of food from farmed animals	**Environmental Outcome** Expansion of irrigation to support economic activities is able to be undertaken where this does not impact on other values of the FMU.
Tairāwhiti Wide Values		
Mauri	**Value** Mauri is reflected in the physical, spiritual and cultural wellbeing of people. The relationship between whenua, ngahere, moana and our people is essential in the assessment of mauri of wai.	**Environmental Outcome** Mauri of the wai in the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU is maintained or improved.
Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU Specific Values		
Kaitiekitanga	**Value** Kaitiekitanga is the obligation of tangata whenua to preserve,	**Environmental Outcome**

	restore, enhance, and sustainably use fresh water for the benefit of present and future generations.	Everyone who lives and works in the catchment is acknowledged for their role in enhancing the health of the environment and downstream water quality
Whakapapa	**Value** Whakapapa relates to all living things and their interconnectedness and provides the genealogical framework that binds land to people. Whakapapa is interconnected between freshwater now and how it came to be.	**Environmental Outcome** Use and engagement with wai honours the whakapapa of the awa. Management practices recognise tangata whenua and kaitieki and how practices affect whakapapa into the future.
Taonga Tuku Iho	**Value** Taonga tuku iho are the treasures and cultural property handed down from ancestors.	**Environmental Outcome** Whanau and hapu remain kaitieki over their Taonga tuku iho to ensure intergenerational transfer of knowledge
Firefighting water	**Value** With climate change and increased risk of drought there needs to be water accessible when there is a fire. Groundwater is a key potential for firefighting water supply.	**Environmental Outcome** There are enough locations and sufficient quantity of water to support firefighting activities across the FMU.
Whanaungatanga	**Value** Whanaungatanga is about forming and maintaining relationships and strengthening ties between whanau and communities**.**	**Environmental Outcome** We undertake life-long learning to provide a well educated, thoughtful creative and motivated peope who manage our land, water and coastal resources wisely and innovate to generate on-going prosperity
Manaakitanga	**Value** The process by which tangata whenua show respect, generosity, and care for freshwater and for others.	**Environmental Outcome** Kai is able to be harvested at sufficient levels that marae and whanau are able to offer manaakitanga in accordance with tikanga.
Wairua	**Value** Water supports the wairua of people.	**Environmental Outcome** Tangata whenua are proud of their capability as kaitieki of the water with an abundant presence

		of native flora and fauna.
Rangatiratanga/ Mana motuhake	**Value** Tangata whenua practice their rights and obligations to manage freshwater resources. Statutory agencies recognise rangatiratanga through joint decision making.	**Environmental Outcome** We utilise our own knowledge and relationships within the Ūawa – Hikuwai FMU but also foster external links to science, innovation and markets to generate prosperity for the community Tangata whenua are the kaitieki over their kapata kai, drinking water and other traditional resources and participate in decision making that affects them.