



Uawa Catchment Working Group

Draft Freshwater Management Units Discussion

20 August 2024

1. Introduction

To develop the Ūawa Catchment Plan we will need to:

- set a long-term vision,
- identify freshwater values,
- set Environmental Outcomes for each Value – and
- set Freshwater Management Units (FMUs).

We have briefly discussed Freshwater Management Units as a step in the planning process but have yet to discuss how to identify them for this catchment plan.

2. Freshwater Management Units

FMUs provide the spatial framework for managing freshwater within a catchment area. The requirement to have FMUs was introduced to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater in 2014.

A FMU is defined as:

“A water body, multiple water bodies or any part of a water body determined by the regional council as the appropriate spatial scale for setting freshwater objectives and limits and for freshwater accounting and management”.

Freshwater Management Units:

- Are a pragmatic approach to managing freshwater. They allow water bodies to be grouped together where appropriate.
- Allow a single objective to apply to freshwater bodies that are not connected.
- Establish a spatial scale at which management activities are undertaken, including freshwater accounting and setting freshwater objectives and limits.

The definition of FMUs is flexible so councils, tangata whenua and communities can determine how best to manage freshwater in their region.

Importantly, FMUs are the level at which environmental outcomes, limits and targets are set. FMUs should have similar values so that the environmental outcomes, limits and targets make sense, and the required outcomes are achievable.

When identifying FMUs, we must decide on the most relevant and practical approach for the catchment – there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach. Each FMU should reflect the unique circumstances of each catchment area.

When setting FMU boundaries, we should consider:

- the hydrological, geographical, social, political and cultural characteristics of the region, including the cultural connections of tangata whenua and communities to place, and
- practical issues with managing freshwater to give effect to the NPS-FM, which may result in sub-dividing or grouping the units further, after considering these characteristics.

3. Examples from other catchment plans

FMUs have been developed or considered for other catchment plans in Tairāwhiti.

These include:

- **Waipaoa Catchment Plan.** First catchment plan to be developed, and notified in 2015. This plan has four FMUs broadly reflecting the different sets of values across the catchment:
 - Hill Country – higher in-stream values
 - Turanga Flats – reflecting the importance of the Poverty Bay Flats and cropping
 - Gisborne Urban – recognising the city landscape and the different water quality issues and higher amenity values in this landscape
 - Te Arai – recognising the importance of this sub-catchment for municipal supply.
- **Mōtū Catchment Plan.** Draft plan completed but waiting notification. Two FMUs identified:
 - Te Wai o Ngahere – largely native bush and conservation estate, carrying high natural values
 - Farmland and settlements – the farmed and settled hill country and river terraces.
- **Waiapu Catchment Plan.** In development. One FMU currently proposed for the entire catchment area.
- **Waimatā-Pakarae Catchment Plan.** In development. Two FMUs currently proposed:
 - Urban – reflecting the urban and peri-urban suburbs of Kaiti, Tamarau, and Wainui/Okitu
 - Rural – including the Waimatā, Pakarae and several smaller rural subcatchments.

Each of these FMUs respond to different environmental states, sets of values, issues and cultural contexts. Ultimately each FMU creates a different management approach to those unique circumstances.

4. Suggested FMU options for Ūawa Catchment plan

Two options as a starter for conversation at our hui are as follows:

Option	Comments
One FMU for the whole catchment area.	Recognises similar geology and landuses across the catchment area Applies the same management approach across the whole catchment area
Two FMUs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="256 651 767 757">• Mangahauini river catchment and coastal catchments north of Tokomaru Bay<li data-bbox="256 768 791 837">• Uawa river catchment and coastal catchments south of Tokomaru Bay	Recognises two distinctive communities in Tolaga Bay and Tokomaru Bay Recognises the two main catchment areas in Ūawa and Mangahauini and the values unique to them. Allows for these two catchment areas to be managed differently

Options will be discussed on the day including those suggested above and any others group members may have to offer.

Once FMUs have been set for the Ūawa Catchment area, we will begin to align values, environmental outcomes, limits and targets to them.

Figure 1: Uawa Catchment area showing two FMUs



Uawa Planning Catchment | Scale: 1:140,000



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Name: AJ Foran | Date: 14/09/2024 | Size: j5
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