

# Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

## Māori values



### Māori values

The Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (the Proposed Plan) has been developed in partnership with mana whenua of the region. Mana whenua are Māori with ancestral claims to a particular area of land and resources.

Greater Wellington Regional Council recognises that Māori have a unique perspective on resource management and have integrated mana whenua values into the Proposed Plan. Mana whenua values provide for the relationship of the region's six iwi with land and water. These relationships are fundamental to the identity and wellbeing of mana whenua, who derive their status as mana whenua and their responsibilities for maintaining customary authority over their tribal area directly from their association with their environment.

It is the role of mana whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in sustaining mauri and upholding their customary responsibilities. Wellington Regional Council acknowledges this role and supports the management of natural resources in accordance with Māori principles and practices and the involvement of mana whenua in resource management planning and decision making. The Proposed Plan explicitly recognises these values in a series of policies covering mana whenua relationships and the exercise of kaitiakitanga.

### How does the Proposed Plan identify Māori values?

The Proposed Plan identifies Māori values at different scales. Mauri, often described as the intrinsic and regenerative life force inherent in everything, is an example of a primary value shared by all Māori of the region. The mauri of fresh water, in particular, is regarded by mana whenua as the basis for all wellbeing. At a regional scale, the Proposed Plan identifies mauri as a principle and overarching objective by requiring that the mauri of all fresh and coastal water is maintained and improved.

Also at a regional scale, all water will be managed according to policies that address aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai, and contact recreation and Māori customary use.

The plan defines the Māori values components of these objectives as follows:

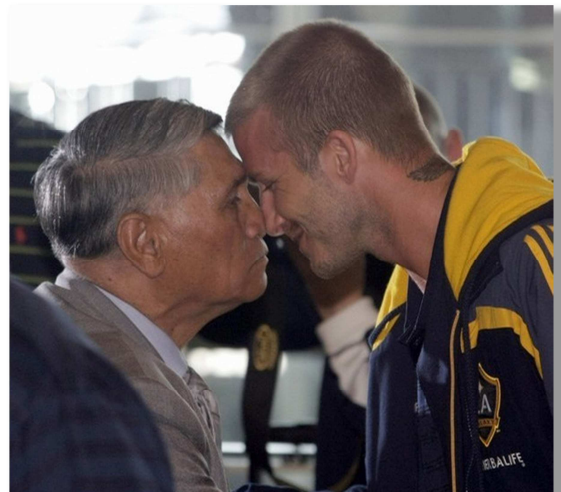
- **Mahinga kai** – The customary gathering of food and natural materials, the food and resources themselves and the places where those resources are gathered.
- **Māori customary use** – The interaction of Māori with fresh and coastal water for cultural purposes. This includes the cultural and spiritual relationship with water expressed through Māori practices, recreation and the harvest of natural materials.

These values are regarded by Māori as important indicators of the health or mauri of the natural world, and the Plan supports the identification, measurement and protection of these values. This requires all resource users to consider Māori values when their resource use may affect fresh or coastal water and particularly applies when people are applying to the Wellington Regional Council for

### What is the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region?

The Proposed Natural Resources Plan (the proposed Plan) is a new regional plan designed to integrate the Wellington Region's five existing regional plans-- the [Regional Coastal Plan](#), [Regional Freshwater Plan](#), [Regional Soil Plan](#), [Regional Air Quality Management Plan](#) and [Regional Plan for Discharges to Land](#). Regional plans are developed under the Resource Management Act to set out the objectives, policies and methods for people and organisations that use a region's resources for a variety of purposes:

The proposed Plan was developed following a review of the five existing regional plans from 2011 to 2015. Until the GWRC decides to adopt the proposed Plan, resource users must comply with rules in the proposed Plan and rules in the five existing plans.



**Permitted:** no resource consent is required provided you comply with the conditions in the rule.

**Controlled, discretionary or non-complying:** a resource consent from Wellington Regional Council is required. Conditions may need to be met.

**Prohibited:** cannot be undertaken at any time.

resource consent. For example, a consent application to extract gravel from a water body may require the user to consider the effect the proposed activity may have on mahinga kai species, their habitat and the places where they are harvested.

### Sites and areas of significance

At a catchment scale mana whenua have identified Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa, or water bodies of particular importance to them, in schedules attached to the plan. Wellington Regional Council encourages protection and enhancement of the relationship between mana whenua and Ngā Taonga Nui a Kiwa through involvement in decision making about these entities. Mana whenua are naturally the best source of information regarding their values and how to recognise them.

Mana whenua have also identified sites of significance at a smaller scale, which are included in Schedule C of the Plan. The schedules list the values that mana whenua wish to be protected at these sites. Schedule C is supported by policies, rules and methods that aim to protect or enhance the sites and their associated values. The rules place restrictions on certain activities to ensure protection of mana whenua values in their most significant places.

The Plan encourages resource users to avoid sites of significance to mana whenua, particularly if the proposed activity is likely to have a more than minor effect on the values at the site.

If the site cannot be avoided, a resource consent will be required and the application will require a cultural impact statement from mana whenua identifying any effects on their values from the proposed activity and, if required, direction on how the activity might be managed to limit those effects. For example, the discharge of contaminants into a site of significance to mana whenua is discouraged and requires resource consent as a non-complying activity.

Mana whenua will be supported by the WRC to engage with the community, to share their knowledge and promote a broader understanding of their values through methods identified in the Plan.

There is a lot of information in the proposed Plan and a lot to understand, so if you need help to figure out if your activity is permitted, or requires a resource consent, or if you have any questions at all, please contact us for more information 0800 496 734 or [regionalplan@gw.govt.nz](mailto:regionalplan@gw.govt.nz)

