

Ruamāhanga Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) Progress Report November 2023

This report provides an update on progress made with implementing the recommendations of the Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP), developed by the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee, and received by Greater Wellington (GW) in August 2018. The previous report was in June 2023.

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Ruamāhanga catchment highlights



Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Restoration Project 22/23

The project planted 30,500 native plantings between July 2022 and June 2023 over 8.16 hectares, supporting the whitua objectives of habitat restoration generally and wetlands specifically.

Funding last financial year was made available to iwi partners to pursue their own investigations and studies into Wairarapa Moana fish populations and water quality as well as pursue their own plans and ideas to reconnect with Wairarapa Moana. The project supported Kohunui Marae Nursery by purchasing plants from them this winter, and will continue to support them with future plantings. These are small steps towards a partnership approach to whitua implementation.

Supports delivery of recommendations: 29 and 31

Major River Project 22/23



This reach on the Ruamāhanga in South Wairarapa was fenced (6.6km) and planted in the 22/23 year. The work is 100% funded between GW and MfE and directly contributes to the whaitua objective of restoring ecological habitats. The old oxbow and wetland at the top right of picture are being planted through the current Spring.

Greater Wellington has worked with two Wairarapa nurseries, Pae tū Mōkai o Tauira in South Wairarapa and Norfolk Road Nursery near Masterton to source plants for this work.

The Major River project is aiming for 100ha, 150,000 plants and 30km of fencing across the region.

Supports delivery of recommendations: 29, 44, 54

Implementation of Regulatory Recommendations

NRP Chapter 7 includes minimum flows and allocation limits in the Ruamāhanga. While these are only recently operative, the analysis used to produce them pre-dates the NPS-FM 2020 and the 2018 WIP recommendations. A number of 'sunset clauses' are included in the plan in recognition of this.

Plan changes to adopt new minimum flows, allocation rules and other target attribute states will be informed by WIP recommendations and other inputs in due course. Greater Wellington will be working with mana whenua and wider community as we develop these final proposed numbers for the plan.

Implementation of Complementary Measures (non-regulatory recommendations)

Non-regulatory work programmes are central to the Ruamāhanga WIP.

Some complementary measures are fully integrated into Greater Wellington’s work. These include:

- support for landowners to implement Good Management Practice such as co-funding for farm planning, fencing, and planting.
- riparian planting and in-river activities that seek to minimise habitat destruction during flood risk management work.

Greater Wellington also leads or partners on special projects such as the Wairarapa Moana Project and Major River Project that provide non-regulatory pathways to WIP objectives.

The table in the WIP Reporting section provides information and analysis on WIP recommendations for non-regulatory programmes. This update provides some additional detail to the previous (June 2023) report.

Community partnerships

Collective action is a key principle within the Ruamāhanga WIP. Support for mana whenua participation and leadership is outlined in the first recommendation.

The following key activities to advance collective action have occurred since the previous (June 2023) report.

Description	Date	Notes
Meetings with former whitua committee members	July / August	Former committee members were sent copies of the June 2023 report
Wairarapa Moana Steering Group hui	27 July	
Wairarapa Collective steering group meeting focused on catchment community group support (MPI, Mountains to Sea, Catchment community leadership, Greater Wellington, WaiP2K)	28 July	

Relationship meeting, Catchment Function and Rangitāne ki Wairarapa	25 August	
Presentation to Combined Council meeting on Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy (WWRS)	30 August	The WWRS incorporates and endorses the water resilience recommendations in the Ruamāhanga WIP
Relationship meeting, Catchment Function and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa	20 October	
Establishment Governance Group meeting for the WWRS	09 November	Councillors and CEs from relevant territorial authorities met with GW and agreed to collaborate on a work programme

Whaitua objectives

We're exploring ways to make whaitua objectives relating to mauri, habitat, fish and mahinga kai more visible and connected to work programmes across the Environment Group.

Operating at the level of objectives may help us to partner better with external organisations and groups.

The whaitua objectives are listed below:

Mauri, natural form and character and habitat objectives

- The mauri of water bodies is enhanced by restoring ecological habitats (such as through riparian planting), improving water quality and ensuring that healthy and abundant mahinga kai is readily available.
- The rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands in the Ruamāhanga whaitua have diverse natural characteristics (e.g. riffles, pools, runs, backwaters and wetland margins) suitable to support abundant and healthy indigenous fauna and taonga species.
- Significant indigenous ecosystems in rivers, lakes and wetlands are protected and restored, including habitat for threatened and/or at-risk species, migratory fish and īnanga spawning (as identified in Schedule F of the PNRP).
- Indigenous fish and taonga species are able to access all tributaries of the Ruamāhanga system from the coast and lowland wetlands, up to and including first-order streams, throughout the catchment to complete their life cycles.
- Adequate habitat space is provided for the life-supporting capacity of indigenous fish and other aquatic life in rivers and streams, including at times of low flow.

Fish and mahinga kai objectives

- Tuna fishery is restored and populations are healthy and can sustain recreational and customary harvests
- Wetlands are restored and their extent increased to support thriving mudfish, īnanga spawning and tuna populations

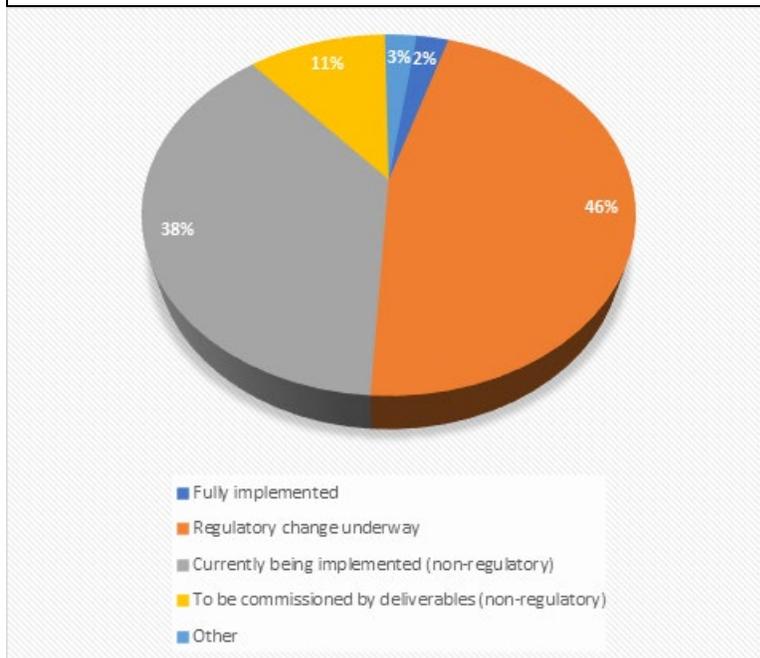
- Urban streams are protected from development and piping to support tuna, kōkopu and redfin bully
- Exotic fish populations are at a level where they are not restricting the vitality of indigenous fish populations and the ability of mana whenua to undertake mahinga kai harvests
- Marae and mana whenua urban communities have access to abundant and healthy mahinga kai species that are safe to eat and are available in quantities that enable sustainable harvests and support the manaakitanga of Wairarapa marae communities
- Watercress is abundant and healthy, safe to eat and free from spray and other contaminants

WIP reporting

WIP recommendations

The table and pie chart below show progress towards implementation of the WIP. There are no changes to category of recommendations for the Ruamāhanga WIP.

Implementation Category	Number of recommendations
Fully implemented	3
Regulatory change underway	55
Currently being implemented (non-regulatory)	45
To be commissioned by deliverables (non-regulatory)	13
Other	3
Total	119



Accessing the WIP

This report needs to read in conjunction with WIP which can be accessed here: [Greater Wellington Regional Council — Ruamahanga \(gw.govt.nz\)](https://www.gw.govt.nz/ruamahanga-wip/). This document provides context to each recommendation.

WIP recommendations – Complementary measures

Rec#	Recommendation wording	Implementation category	June 2023 Comment	Nov 2023 Comment
1.1	<p>Greater Wellington will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support mana whenua as active partners in the management of the Ruamāhanga whaitua Work in partnership with mana whenua to develop a management structure that includes a permanent role for hapū/marae at the FMU level Work in partnership with mana whenua to establish and resource a kaitiaki support structure that ensures that Ruamāhanga whaitua hapū and marae are enabled to participate fully in FMU and catchment community planning, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of indicators Monitoring programme Kaitiaki training Development of mataūranga Māori Ensure that sufficient funding and dedicated resourcing to enable mana whenua participation are available as soon as the implementation of an FMU/freshwater objective framework begins Establish operative roles for mana whenua and hapū/marae in the management of water quality and quantity and river management activities in the Ruamāhanga whaitua Support hapū/marae to develop their own indicators for each FMU, including one for Ruamāhanga as a whole. This process to start as 	To be commissioned by deliverables	<p>New deliverable name: Partnering with marae. Greater Wellington led (Te Hunga Whiriwhiri team). This will be a dedicated project with a focus on creating structures and ways of working with hapū and marae together (by working through marae). Some existing work is underway with hapū and marae through individual projects. This project will need to be aware of this work and could learn lessons about what is working e.g., from the Gladstone cluster.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is meeting regularly with Kahungūnu and Rangitāne to advance aspects of whaitua implementation with mana whenua as active partners.</p> <p>A dedicated project to pursue this specific recommendation through a more formal structure and approach could be a result of these meetings.</p>

	<p>soon as the implementation of an FMU/freshwater objective framework begins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include hapū/marae indicators in reporting on progress towards meeting freshwater objectives • Establish and support the process for mana whenua analysis and interpretation of hapū/marae indicators • Encourage and work with mana whenua on the development and inclusion of mātauranga Māori innovative regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to achieving improved water quality 			
5	<p>The Ruamāhanga whitua integrated land and water management system should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to be a comprehensive, catchment-wide system that increases ecological and social health and wellbeing as well as improving water use reliability • Create resilience to the pressures of changing weather systems under climate change • Empower communities to identify and implement suitable processes and management options in their sub-catchments in order to contribute to the whitua-wide approach. 	No applicable deliverables to implement	<p>These are guiding high-level principles and outcomes, achieved through other recommendations, rather than having deliverables themselves.</p> <p>These directions feed into the Catchment planning processes underway.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is working as part of the Wairarapa Collective to support landowners and catchment communities in suitable management choices.</p> <p>Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.</p>
6	<p>In order to see the effective implementation of all the objectives, limits and policy packages described in this WIP, the Committee supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of actions where rural and urban catchments have a collective responsibility to make change and improve water quality • A mainly non-regulatory approach to staying within discharge limits for diffuse contaminants 	No applicable deliverables to implement	<p>These are guiding high-level principles and outcomes, achieved through other recommendations, rather than having deliverables themselves.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is working as part of the Wairarapa Collective to support landowners and catchment communities in suitable management choices.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emphasis on the use of integrated planning tools (sub-catchment groups, farm planning tools and user groups), supported by education and incentives • Regulation of point-source discharges of contaminants, land use activities and water takes • Seeking means for promoting and ensuring continuous improvement and innovation across all sectors and communities • Collecting and making available information on resource use in the whaitua as a way of enabling better decision-making at all scales. 			
7	Greater Wellington, along with iwi and other partners, develops a coherent FMU implementation framework that results in effective and successful managing to limits at an FMU scale, in both rural and urban environments, to achieve freshwater objectives.	Currently being implemented	The stand up of Greater Wellington's new Rōpū Taiao Environment Group in May 2023, including the introduction of catchment plans will encompass this recommendation.	Greater Wellington is preparing for action plans under the NPS-FM. These may support an FMU implementation framework as identified in this recommendation.
8	Greater Wellington resources the Freshwater Management Unit Implementation Framework sufficiently to support the development of an implementation work programme.	Currently being implemented	To be provided through the stand up of Greater Wellington's new Rōpū Taiao Environment Group in May 2023, the introduction of catchment plans, and the inclusion of implementation work in the Long Term Plan (LTP) if necessary.	No current update
10.3	Innovation in land and water management practice in the Ruamāhanga whaitua should be encouraged and actively facilitated by Greater Wellington, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively reviewing the effectiveness of the implementation of Greater Wellington operational activities and planning practices and of the 	Currently being implemented	Aligns with the Greater Wellington Policy Effectiveness Monitoring Programme (Environmental Science team).	No current update

	recommendations in this WIP in order to promote continued improvement and learning, and to ease bottlenecks			
10.4	<p>Innovation in land and water management practice in the Ruamāhanga whitua should be encouraged and actively facilitated by Greater Wellington, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that management processes within Greater Wellington reflect a desire to support innovation. This may include internally rewarding “bright ideas” and establishing/fostering internal practices that support and reward innovation. 	To be commissioned by deliverables	<p>New deliverable name: Review of GW processes which hinder innovation. Greater Wellington led. Workshop that culminates in a report with recommendations for improved practices and processes internally to support land and water management practices externally. Should consider innovation across new Rōpū Taiao Environment Group. Should include reviewing policy effectiveness related to plans. May include identifying opportunities to use science and other knowledge, and external partnerships and tools.</p>	Greater Wellington is celebrating leadership and innovation through its Mauri Tu Maori Ora Awards for staff.
11.1	<p>The Committee recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMP be emphasised and innovation fostered as part of every farm plan and by the operational practices of Greater Wellington and territorial authorities in the Ruamāhanga whitua Industry guidelines are the primary source of GMP guidance Sub-catchment groups, communities and industry bodies help to develop and apply appropriate GMP specific to the identified requirements of FMUs 	Currently being implemented	<p>Industry Good Management Practice (GMP) is already being utilised by Greater Wellington. Note: All new and reviewed farm plans include this. However, not all existing farm plans have been reviewed/updated to include GMP.</p>	Greater Wellington is working as part of the Wairarapa Collective to support landowners and catchment communities in suitable management choices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Greater Wellington cannot implement GMP on its own, it develops partnerships with industry, stakeholders and communities for supporting the implementation and adoption of GMP, with the critical role of industry recognised. 			
12.1	<p>The Committee recommends that water use efficiency be improved among all water users in the Ruamāhanga whitua, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local councils (as suppliers of water) improving water conservation by residential, commercial and industrial users, establishing appropriate demand management strategies during water shortages, improving resilience and reducing demand in issuing of consents for new builds and subdivisions, and investigating opportunities for water re-use Group and community water suppliers appropriately managing demand during water shortages and supporting improved resilience of supply 	To be commissioned by deliverables	<p>New deliverable name: Water Conservation Programme. Proposed that this be led by Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council (or Wellington Water on their behalf). Each of the above Councils would lead their own document.</p>	Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.
12.2	<p>The Committee recommends that water use efficiency be improved among all water users in the Ruamāhanga whitua, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation users meeting at least 80% efficiency of application and further improving practices through recognised programmes Greater Wellington recognising that exceptions to the “80% efficiency of application” requirement may be appropriate where the financial return from a less efficient water application can be shown to be high (i.e. the water use is highly economically efficient) or where there are meaningful benefits for the environment in a 	Currently being implemented	Being delivered through farm plan tools.	Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.

	<p>less efficient water use, effectively offsetting the benefits of being 80% efficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing education opportunities across types of water users. 			
12.3	<p>The Committee recommends that water use efficiency be improved among all water users in the Ruamāhanga whitua, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Wellington and territorial authorities working together to develop long term plans for the management of water races in the Ruamāhanga whitua that meet the objectives of this WIP and provide for the values of the water bodies and communities 	To be commissioned by deliverables	<p>New deliverable name: Water Races Long Term Management Options Project. Greater Wellington led. This will be a dedicated project. Work will commence with identifying objectives, preliminary scope and resource requirements, then testing these through a project brief (or business case or similar mechanism) to identify whether there is a mandate to proceed further. The project will need to align with the Wairarapa Water Resilience Programme. This deliverable is shared with Recommendation 107.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is mapping water races for the purpose of identifying the correct regimes under freshwater regulations for natural waterways. The Opaki water race consent has been submitted with the intention of closing the race in 2026. Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.</p>
13	<p>All people of the whitua need to be involved in efforts to ensure that water is used efficiently and with care, and the burden of change in order to improve water quality should be borne across communities.</p>	No applicable deliverables to implement	<p>This is a principle and addressed through other recommendations, rather than having specific deliverables attached to it.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.</p>
14	<p>Greater Wellington establishes as an urgent priority, and actions, a monitoring plan as required by Policy CB1 of the NPS-FM for the monitoring of each FMU.</p>	To be commissioned by deliverables	<p>New deliverable name: Whitua Monitoring Plan encompassing each FMU.</p>	No current update

			<p>Greater Wellington led. Word document for each Whaitua. Each FMU is to be represented. To meet requirements of NFS-FM 2020 s3.18.</p> <p>Note: although each FMU will be addressed, this will not necessarily mean monitoring sites will be implemented. Modelling or extrapolation may be utilised.</p> <p>To action the plan, a revised monitoring programme will need to be put in place.</p> <p>This deliverable is also shared with recommendations 17, 19, 20 and 21.</p>	
15	Greater Wellington establishes as an urgent priority, and operates, a freshwater quality accounting system as required by the NPS-FM (Policy CC1). The existing water take accounting system should be upgraded so that it is compatible with the quality system and is accessible to the public and water users.	Currently being implemented	Greater Wellington's Environment Group have been progressing this but identified issues with data which are being resolved. An ICT component may be progressed separately.	No current update
16	Greater Wellington requires the provision of information on contaminant inputs, sources and/or losses and mitigation activities from resource users, as appropriate to the issues, suitable for the development, operation and use of fit for purpose freshwater accounting.	Currently being implemented	A Freshwater accounting system is being developed by Greater Wellington, as described in Recommendation 15.	No current update
17	Greater Wellington develops a suitable monitoring programme(s) to establish in-river sediment loads and/or concentrations, including confirming relationships to sediment loads off land and the effectiveness of	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Whaitua Monitoring Plan encompassing each FMU. Greater Wellington led.	No current update

	mitigations. Greater Wellington requires the progress of actions to mitigate sediment loss, including riparian planting and hill-slope erosion practices, to be regularly reported.		Refer to recommendation 14 for details.	
18	Greater Wellington establishes a data protocol and reporting plan to ensure that all aggregated data collected is publicly available and provided in a fit for purpose and transparent manner.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington through an accounting system. Data is currently aggregated and publicly available but not in a fit for purpose manner. Remainder of the recommendation will be delivered through the data platform project.	No current update
19	Greater Wellington supports community monitoring and the wider integration of monitoring results to support FMU outcomes.	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Waitua Monitoring Plan encompassing each FMU. Greater Wellington led. Refer to recommendation 14 for details.	Greater Wellington is working as part of the Wairarapa Collective to support landowners and catchment communities in suitable management choices, including community monitoring.
20	Greater Wellington undertakes a review of flow monitoring sites in the Ruamāhanga waitua. Where necessary, to ensure that the network is fit for purpose in implementing this WIP, it makes changes to the network, including the establishment of new sites.	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Waitua Monitoring Plan encompassing each FMU. Greater Wellington led. Refer to recommendation 14 for details.	No current update
21	Greater Wellington establishes a social and economic monitoring and assessment framework with indicators agreed by the community. Greater Wellington includes social and economic monitoring in the monitoring plan for the Ruamāhanga waitua.	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Waitua Monitoring Plan encompassing each FMU. Greater Wellington led. Refer to recommendation 14 for details.	No current update

25	<p>Greater Wellington plans and implements the Committee's vision for healthy rivers and lakes in the Ruamāhanga whaitua by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring that the river and lake management functions of the Council achieve freshwater objectives and targets in each FMU 2. Working with mana whenua and communities in co-creating what river and lake management for the health of the river looks like within each FMU. 	Currently being implemented	<p>Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan sets out a change in river management to improve the health of the rivers in the Upper Ruamāhanga catchment. Such as allowing the river more room, less in river works and planting of the buffer (riparian). Intervention methods have changed since the adoption of Te Kāuru (circa 2019) with many small erosion events being left and watched as they are deemed not to be of any risk to people or infrastructure. The lower catchment will require a wider plan, which is to be developed over the next six years. The Waiohine River Plan has now been adopted by Council. Within this river plan it talks about water quality and outlines the WIP water quality targets for the Waiohine River Plan. The plan outlines recommended plan (PNRP) changes to align water allocation as well as planting for river management, biodiversity, and cultural resource.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is meeting with community members from around the Mangatāre Stream and Waipoua Urban Reach to explore how values relating to river health can be integrated into flood risk management works. Meetings of the Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee and its associated sub-committees have occurred through July/August.</p>
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26	<p>Greater Wellington identifies and implements methods for further enabling mana whenua participation in land and water resource management, including with papa kāinga, marae and hapū (as appropriate), to ensure that the values of mana whenua are appropriately reflected in freshwater planning and regulatory processes and in flood protection strategic and operational planning and implementation.</p>	Currently being implemented	<p>Greater Wellington’s work programmes includes incorporation of Mana Whenua values in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freshwater planning and regulatory processes • flood protection strategic activities • flood protection operational planning • flood protection implementation. 	No current update
28	<p>Greater Wellington reviews current planning and implementation activities relevant to the health of lakes and rivers in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify any changes necessary to planning, governance, investment and practice to deliver the Ruamāhanga whaitua objectives through river and lake management 2. Identify new multidisciplinary systems to deliver integrated river and catchment management 3. Progressively implement the findings of this review work. <p>“Activities” could include institutional delivery structures, the alignment of future relevant land and water</p>	Currently being implemented	<p>Being implemented by Greater Wellington through several initiatives. Floodplain Management Plan Guidelines are currently being reviewed to ensure they capture WIP recommendations and are relevant to how flood protection is undertaken in today’s environment. The review will be completed late 2023. Flood Protection also have a Code of Practice that has been updated to reflect WIP</p>	<p>Greater Wellington’s Environment Group operating model is being implemented to support integration of delivery work including for lakes and rivers. Greater Wellington is meeting with community members from around the Mangatāre Stream and Waipoua Urban Reach to explore how values relating to river health can be integrated into flood risk management works.</p>

	programmes and investments, and the application of GMP in operational and capital expenditure works.		recommendations around water quality/healthy rivers and streams.	Meetings of the Upper Ruamāhanga River Management Advisory Committee and it's associated sub-committees have occurred through July/August.
29	<p>Greater Wellington seeks and takes opportunities to enhance the natural form and character, aquatic ecosystem health and mahinga kai of rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands across the Ruamāhanga whitua, including by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aligning the planning and operation of flood management activities (e.g. floodplain planning) with the Ruamāhanga whitua objectives and policies 2. Identifying and implementing management options to enhance natural character and to achieve the Ruamāhanga freshwater objectives when undertaking operational works (e.g. willow removal and gravel extraction) 3. Aligning and supporting farm planning and farm plan implementation with the Ruamāhanga whitua objectives 4. Investing in riparian planting for shading and stream bank erosion management and in wetland restoration 5. Supporting and undertaking the restoration of native fish spawning habitat, including in water bodies affected by flood management activities. 	Currently being implemented	<p>Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan covers river activities within the Upper Ruamāhanga catchment. It has objectives in the plan that seek to achieve this recommendation. The Code of Practice is also aligned to meet this recommendation. Riparian planting is part of the implementation of Te Kāuru. Funding was achieved through the Ministry for the Environment 'Jobs for Nature' programme that has seen 150,000 native plants planted over 100ha over the last 4 years. This funding was based off Te Kāuru. Te Kāuru funding has now become available to enable us to continue this work in the upper catchment, along with the appointment of Riparian and Community officers. The river schemes also undertaken</p>	<p>The Wairarapa Moana Project has made progress in enhancing natural character, e.g. through planting. The Major Rivers Project is also delivering natural form and character habitats in the Ruamāhanga catchment.</p>

		<p>enhancement work restricted to scheme funding.</p> <p>The lower valley work is via the current scheme structure, where substantial planting is undertaken through each work programme. Over the next six years a river and/or catchment plan will be developed that with mana whenua, TAs and the community that will align with all relevant WIP recommendations.</p> <p>The Waiohine River Plan has now been adopted by Council. Within this river plan it talks about water quality and outlines the WIP water quality targets for the Waiohine River Plan. The plan outlines recommended plan (PNRP) changes to align water allocation as well as planting for river management, biodiversity and cultural resource. The vision, targets and requirements of the Whaitua programme and Te Mana O Te Wai are incorporated into the Waiohine River Plan.</p> <p>There is also farm planning and riparian planting and biodiversity work underway.</p>	
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31	<p>Greater Wellington commits to the restoration of the health of Wairarapa Moana, including Lake Wairarapa and Lake Ōnoke, by undertaking research, investigations and experiments in management approaches, strategic planning and changes to operational activities to progressively improve the lake health and to reach the objectives of this WIP by 2080 at the latest.</p>	Currently being implemented	<p>All falls under Wairarapa Moana Wetland Project. Wairarapa Moana will form part of the Lower Valley catchment/river plan that will be developed over the next 6 years with mana whenua, TAs and community. The current barrage gate consent will expire in 6 years so that a catchment/river plan is able to be thoroughly investigated (with or without the gates). Some parts of this recommendation are also covered in the following recommendations. Governance arrangements will change with the introduction of a Statutory Board.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington has established an integrated approach to scoping the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.</p>
32	<p>Greater Wellington undertakes feasibility studies of “in-lake” management options for the purposes of providing for the community values of Wairarapa Moana and achieving the freshwater objectives identified in this WIP. Options to investigate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rerouting the Ruamāhanga River into Lake Wairarapa, particularly at flows below the median flow, with higher flows bypassing the lake • Alternative management regimes for the lake level gates at Lake Wairarapa • Alternative management regimes for Lake Ōnoke, including in relation to the timing, location and operation of lake mouth openings 	Currently being implemented	<p>This recommendation is being implemented through the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review and Management Plan Project Plan led by Greater Wellington. Knowledge Water are progressing with the development of a hydraulic model to test the options identified by this recommendation.</p>	No current update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimenting with alternative management options, such as temporarily holding Lake Wairarapa at higher levels than current practice, as a means of testing proof of concepts for potential broader application. <p>All such feasibility studies of in-lake management options should be completed within 10 years of the issuing of this WIP (i.e. by 2028). Experimentation should ensure an appropriate consideration of the WCO. Effective and early engagement with the Ruamāhanga whitua community and broader public as part of any such feasibility work will help to underpin successful experimentation and the robust identification of management choices for future implementation.</p>			
33	<p>Greater Wellington investigates further options for restoring the health of Wairarapa Moana, including restoring the Ruamāhanga River flow into Lake Wairarapa, including to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate the impacts of wave action • Reduce the re-suspension of sediments in order to improve clarity • Create conditions suitable for macrophytes to survive and thrive • Remove nutrients and sediments • Restore the health of mahinga kai species • Enhance the health of wetlands. 	Currently being implemented	As per Recommendations 32 & 34 this is being implemented through the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review. Jobs for Nature funding has a research component for fish and water quality.	No current update
34	<p>Greater Wellington recognises and supports research being undertaken by external groups, mana whenua and the whitua community on means to improve the health of Lake Wairarapa and Lake Ōnoke, and actively considers the application of new knowledge to the management of activities affecting the lakes, including through planning, consent practice and operational management practices.</p>	Currently being implemented	This recommendation is being implemented through the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review and Management Plan Project Plan.	Greater Wellington is working to identify the range of studies currently being conducted by external groups.

35	Greater Wellington actively informs and works with external agencies, including the Department of Conservation, to link the management of non-native fisheries and the commercial harvest of native fish species with achieving the Ruamāhanga whitua objectives and to deliver on the needs of catchment communities.	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Meeting with DoC re fisheries with identification of any next steps Greater Wellington led. Meeting with DoC representative for Wairarapa fisheries to be initiated by Greater Wellington as part of Wairarapa Moana project discussions. To be followed by written advice (for example a memo or similar) to any local whitua governance group overseeing implementation of the Ruamāhanga WIP.	Greater Wellington is reviewing how fish monitoring work should be conducted in relation to the roles of the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, DOC, Greater Wellington and Fish & Game.
42	Across the whitua, Greater Wellington supports and drives improved management of critical source areas and high-risk land uses in line with GMP, including through working with industry partners.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team.	No current update
43	In the "top 5" FMUs, Greater Wellington undertakes further sub-FMU scale planning with local communities to establish the locations of highest priority in which to undertake sediment mitigation works in order to achieve the targets in Table 3.	Currently being implemented	Across the whitua, Greater Wellington supports and drives improved management of critical source areas and high-risk land uses in line with good management practice, including through working with industry partners.	Greater Wellington uses the "top 5" FMUs identified in the WIP to inform prioritisation, alongside other factors.
44	Greater Wellington aligns the planning, funding and support of sediment mitigation activities, including both riparian restoration and hill-slope erosion and sediment control, with the identified priority areas and targets and the suitable mitigation approaches.	Currently being implemented	Across the whitua, Greater Wellington supports and drives improved management of critical source areas and high-risk land uses in line with GMP,	Greater Wellington uses the "top 5" FMUs identified in the WIP to inform prioritisation, alongside other factors.

			including through working with industry partners.	
45	Greater Wellington promotes the uptake of sediment mitigation through connections with new research into sediment mitigation measures , practices and adoption mechanisms, and Greater Wellington, industry and community extension services to enable the uptake of constantly improving practice.	Currently being implemented	Across the whaitua, Greater Wellington supports and drives improved management of critical source areas and high-risk land uses in line with GMP, including through working with industry partners.	No current update
47	Greater Wellington and industry promote and support the implementation of farm planning as a primary tool of management at a farm scale.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team.	Greater Wellington supports farm planning services as a key tool for good management practise.
48	Greater Wellington further incentivises and promotes the adoption of farm planning and the activation and review of existing farm plans.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team.	Greater Wellington supports farm planning services as a key tool for good management practise.
49	Greater Wellington and iwi partners and industry work together to promote and implement GMP in both rural and urban contexts. Appropriate GMP for the Ruamāhanga catchment should be defined.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team. Good Management Practice (GMP) is a long-standing aspect of farm environment planning. Recent developments in this work include updating the GMP competencies of staff with deliberate training, staff development. GMP advisory services are planned in line with catchment priorities as determined by Whaitua water quality objectives and land enhancement grant	No current update

			programmes support landowners implementing farm system changes to enhance GMP at a property scale based on catchment priorities. GMP promotion in urban context is not being implemented, apart from a minor amount of services (less than 5% of total programmes) provided to lifestyle block owners on the fringes of urban areas.	
50	GMP should be emphasised as part of farm planning.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team.	No current update
52	Greater Wellington actively promotes and enforces the requirements of the permitted activity rules for break-feeding, cultivation and livestock exclusion.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team. This work aligns with Recommendation 49, GMP. Riparian restoration programme and various land enhancement grant support opportunities are enabling compliance through a farm environment planning delivery model. Enforcement of the requirements, where the above is not successful, is a standard regulation response.	No current update

53	<p>Greater Wellington provides a new rule for land use changes where a new land use results in an increase in contaminant load as a discretionary activity in the PNRP. A land use change that results in a decrease in contaminant load shall be a permitted activity.</p>	Fully implemented		No current update
54	<p>Greater Wellington expands its support for extensive, whitua-wide riparian planting for the management of stream bank erosion and for in-stream benefits (e.g. shade to reduce periphyton), including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority in farm planning design and implementation • Increasing funding for riparian planting, as well as improving access to and awareness of the funds • Producing plants (e.g. at Akura nursery) or assisting communities to produce plants fit for such a programme. 	Fully implemented	<p>The implementation of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Flood Management Plan is to riparian plant the buffer along the Upper Ruamahanga catchment. This was limited to the Ministry for the Environment Jobs for Nature funding as Te Kāuru did not have funding available. However, this has since changed, and planting can now occur under this funding base. The Waiohine River Plan has now been adopted by Council. Within this river plan it talks about water quality and outlines the WIP water quality targets for the Waiohine River Plan. The plan outlines recommended plan (PNRP) changes to align water allocation as well as planting for river management, biodiversity and cultural resource.</p> <p>The vision, targets and requirements of the Whitua programme and Te Mana O Te</p>	No current update

			Wai are incorporated into the Waiohine River Plan.	
61	Greater Wellington, along with iwi and other partners, supports the formation and coordination of catchment communities in both urban and rural environments.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented by Greater Wellington's Environment Restoration team.	Greater Wellington is working as part of the Wairarapa Collective to support landowners and catchment communities in suitable management choices, including community monitoring.
62	Greater Wellington supports and contributes to the continued development of the Wairarapa Catchment Communities/Pūkaha to Palliser project, which aims to bring catchment community groups together and "make it easier" for them to achieve desired outcomes for their communities, whether they are environmental, social, cultural or economic outcomes.	Currently being implemented	Riparian planting programme is working closely with the community where possible. Te Kāuru now has funding, this will open up a significant ability for GW to work with communities to establish riparian margins throughout the upper catchment. It is early days for the funding, so work needs to commence on developing a programme for this in conjunction with the new Rōpū Taiao Environment Group and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri. The Lower Valley, as stated in other recommendations, will require community input to enable a successful catchment plan. The Waiohine River Plan covers the restoration and conservation of the riverside to	As part of the Wairarapa Collective, WaiP2K has supported new partners to join the work. Greater Wellington is working with Mountains to Sea Wellington and a new farmer-led organisation to make it easy to coordinate and pursue desired outcomes.

			enable catchment community groups to become involved.	
63	Greater Wellington supports and contributes to the development of a multi-agency delivery platform that will effectively respond and deliver resources effectively and efficiently to the needs of catchment communities. This agency coordinated response will enable communities to make changes ahead of regulation and support innovation.	Currently being implemented	Once the Lower Valley catchment plan is completed Greater Wellington will be able to support and contribute to developing a multi-agency platform.	Greater Wellington is working with partner agencies to coordinate funding and other support. As part of the Wairarapa Collective, Greater Wellington is working with Mountains to Sea Wellington and a new farmer-led organisation to make it easy to coordinate and pursue desired outcomes.
64	Greater Wellington writes a compliance plan with the community for compliance with rules in the PNRP, including targets and limits.	Currently being implemented	Will dovetail with Greater Wellington catchment plans.	Greater Wellington is considering how Action Plans under the NPS-FM will provide support for this recommendation.
65	Greater Wellington implements good compliance systems e.g. strategic compliance across activities (prioritising compliance on higher risk activities).	Fully implemented	Strategic compliance programme is already operating.	No current update
66	Greater Wellington undertakes a prioritisation exercise to determine the further investigations that need to be completed in the catchment to better understand effects and/or to establish causality to inform future management. The priorities identified in the following recommendation should also be included.	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Investigation Strategy for the Whaitua. Greater Wellington led. Report with recommendations on priorities for science investigations across the whaitua, including noting priorities already highlighted within the WIP.	Greater Wellington has established an integrated approach to scoping the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, which will include prioritisation of investigations to inform future management.

67.1	<p>The following investigations should be considered priorities as part of the implementation of Recommendation 66:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish sedimentation rates (and gather other information on the impacts of sediment on lake health and river health) for Lake Ōnoke, including to establish a relationship between catchment loads and lake health. 	Currently being implemented		Greater Wellington has established an integrated approach to scoping the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme, which will include prioritisation of investigations to inform future management.
67.2	<p>The following investigations should be considered priorities as part of the implementation of Recommendation 66:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a further investigation of contaminant pathways through groundwater, including soil vulnerability and attenuation processes. 	To be commissioned by deliverables	<p>New deliverable name: Contaminant Pathway Investigation. Greater Wellington led. This would need a staged approach. Would need to wait for completion of SkyTEM to begin the groundwater portion, expected to be a couple of years away (see work underway to implement recommendation 89). Stage 1: Desktop and scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider what national/research work has been undertaken in this area already. • Consider how work can be used in FMUs. Scope investigations to apply national programmes for soil. 	Greater Wellington has established an integrated approach to scoping the review of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme.

			<p>Stage 2: Soil attenuation study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake soil investigations <p>Stage 3: Groundwater Monitoring programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted monitoring where you have a groundwater issue (in a groundwater management zone). <p>Stage 4: Catchment Pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attenuation pathways report outlining results. • Could potentially then apply results to other similar catchments. • Would need to involve a soil/land scientist. 	
67.3	<p>The following investigations should be considered priorities as part of the implementation of Recommendation 66:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a further investigation, including via modelling, of sediment loads lost from land use activities, including to identify how loads are changing over time. 	Currently being Implemented		No current update

68	<p>Greater Wellington advocates for, and actively seeks out, alternative funding models for mitigation measures in order to promote successful and extensive implementation.</p>	Currently being implemented	<p>Greater Wellington Flood Protection actively searched out additional/alternative funding through the first Covid19 lockdown, successfully obtaining a \$5 million, 5 year riparian planting programme through MfE. Also obtained shovel ready funding through the Provisional Development Fund for erosion works, one of which is for River Road, Masterton (\$2 million). This work is to protect the Ruamāhanga River from the closed MDC landfill.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is working with partner agencies to coordinate funding and other support. As part of the Wairarapa Collective, Greater Wellington is working with Mountains to Sea Wellington (MfE funded) and a new farmer-led organisation (MPI funded) to make it easy to coordinate and pursue desired outcomes. Jobs4Nature funding has been applied to the Wairarapa Moana Project and Major Rivers Project in the Ruamāhanga.</p>
69	<p>Greater Wellington should actively seek capital from central government and promote external capital investment, such as carbon offsetting programmes, in assisting landowners in extensive uptake of sediment mitigations across the whitua.</p>	Currently being implemented	<p>As per Recommendation 68. Flood Protection has obtained central government funding to assist with erosion control (riparian planting and hard engineering). We will continue to apply for capital funding from central government when it is available.</p>	No current update
70	<p>To improve water supply reliability, the Ruamāhanga whitua integrated land and water management system should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate multiple management options for water retention, including attenuation, storage and harvesting at a range of scales, and efficient 	Currently being implemented	<p>Being implemented through Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.</p>	<p>Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.</p>

	<p>use in the long and short terms, rather than be dependent on any one mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promote attenuation of water in soils, wetlands, lakes and groundwater systems across the catchment • Ensure an equitable approach to improved water storage and water use efficiency by both rural and urban users. 			
74	Greater Wellington further investigates integrated solutions to water reliability. These should include integrating storage, harvesting, attenuation and managed aquifer recharge, and facilitate pilot projects to prove feasibility.	Currently being implemented	Being implemented through Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.	Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.
86	Greater Wellington undertakes further investigations to ensure that those groundwater takes classified as Category A do have a direct connection with nearby river, stream or lake.	Currently being implemented	Investigations have been completed but may be refined in the future using additional information about the geology (e.g., results from Sky TEM project). An assessment of the gaps and confidence in information for each area may be needed.	No current update
87.1	Greater Wellington undertakes targeted investigations into the Parkvale Stream, Booths Creek, Mākōura Stream, Kuripuni Stream and Tauanui and Tūrangānui Rivers to determine the specific minimum flow requirements and allocation limits for each river or stream, within three years of the plan notification or by 2022.	Currently being implemented	Small Stream Investigations work led by Greater Wellington. This work is currently underway.	No current update
87.2	Greater Wellington undertakes targeted investigations into the Parkvale Stream, Booths Creek, Mākōura Stream, Kuripuni Stream and Tauanui and Tūrangānui Rivers to determine the specific minimum flow requirements and	To be commissioned by deliverables	New deliverable name: Minimum flow requirements and allocation limits for Mākōura Stream, Kuripuni Stream.	No current update

	allocation limits for each river or stream, within three years of the plan notification or by 2022.		Greater Wellington led. Study to match other streams in Recommendation 87. Note that these streams were excluded in existing work (the streams covered in Recommendation 87.1) due to the high cost of implementing this recommendation.	
98	In order to help meet minimum flow requirements, the Committee strongly supports the use of rainwater tanks and encourages territorial authorities to require rainwater tanks in new subdivisions to promote the efficient use of water.	Regional Policy Statement	Being managed by Greater Wellington through its regulatory programmes of work.	Water tank requirements are included in a proposed rule in the draft Wairarapa Combined District Plan for new residential developments. Some Territorial Authorities offer support for rain tank costs.
107	Greater Wellington works with territorial authorities and landowners to collect information and develop long-term management options (in conjunction with Recommendations 9 and 11) for all water races in the Ruamāhanga whitua. The information should be collected and assessed in the order that water races come up for consent renewal.	To be commissioned by deliverables	New Deliverable name: Water Races Long Term Management Options Project. Greater Wellington led. See Recommendation 12.3 which shares this deliverable for details.	Greater Wellington is mapping water races for the purpose of identifying the correct regimes under freshwater regulations for natural waterways. The Opaki water race consent has been submitted with the intention of closing the race in 2026. Greater Wellington is working with territorial authorities and others to establish a work programme under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy.

