

From: [Jonny Osborne](#)
To: [Regional Plan](#)
Subject: Submission on PC1
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Tēnā koe

I support the direction in Plan Change 1. Greater Wellington has shown courage to bring this plan change to the public, and I urge councillors to continue to support these changes through to their implementation.

For too long we have not cared for our wai, and the health of our harbours, estuaries, rivers, lakes, streams, wildlife and communities have suffered as a result. This is not good enough, and we must work together to right the wrongs of the past. Now is the time for action. Local community groups across the region are already doing what they can, but we need Plan Change 1 to solve some of the biggest problems. Addressing matters like aging and leaky infrastructure, inappropriate urban development and poor land use practices takes a strong (and enforced) regulatory backbone.

Restoring the health of our wai will take generations but it can happen if we reset the regional plan so that it is driving improvement and no longer allows inaction, declining water quality or inefficient water use. I particularly support measures in Plan Change 1 that will, if implemented properly, see an end to harmful wastewater entering directly into our streams and coastal waters, water sensitive urban design implemented as the norm across the region, and our rural and forestry practices improved so they no longer harm our waterways and the wildlife that live in them. Declining trends will begin to reverse, wildlife will start returning to places they have long ago left and our children will be safe playing and learning in their local streams and beaches. These are the first steps on the journey to restoring Te Mana o Te Wai and returning the mauri to our water.

You will hear from many submitters that these measures are too expensive, will constrain development, or can't be achieved. I urge you to stay the course and support these changes through to implementation. Yes, it will be expensive and we cannot continue to raise rates as we have in the recent past, but this is not a reason to water down these regulations. New sources of funding can be found with the right leadership and the new Government has indicated that they are open to exploring options. Development done right is possible; cities all over the world are demonstrating that our built environments can be weaved into the natural world. I support the timeframes for achieving the target attribute states set out in Plan Change 1, noting that in many cases these are only first step improvements to reverse the decline and get water quality above national bottom lines. If we stay ambitious, solutions we cannot imagine today will help us on our journey.

The costs of inaction outweigh those of action, and ultimately those costs fall on future generations. Choosing yet again to kick the can down the road will be a moral, financial and environmental failure and could have consequences that we cannot foresee. Good luck with your deliberations, I trust you will reach the right conclusion for the Wellington of today and tomorrow.

Ngā mihi nui

Jonny Osborne

Community representative on Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua

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