

Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whaitua Implementation Programme Progress Report 2025



Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara (in green) covers the metropolitan Wellington area and its surrounding hills and drains into Te Whanganui-a-Tara Harbour. There are dense urban areas in the three cities of Wellington, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt, key transport corridors, commercial centres, and extensive hill country and reserves. The catchment contains many short and steep waterways that respond quickly to rainfall and face strong pressure from urban land use, hard surfaces, and historic stream modification. Greater Wellington works in strong partnership with mana whenua to support cultural, historical, and environmental connections to the catchment through ongoing kaitiakitanga.

This catchment takes recommendations from two documents, “Te Whanganui-a-Tara Implementation Programme” (TWT) and “Te Mahere Wai o te Kahui Taiao” (TMW). In total there are 298 recommendations (including sub-recommendations) in the two documents. Approximately a fifth of recommendations required regulatory change with many progressed through Plan Change 1 to the Natural Resources Plan. Work on water quantity, which covers minimum flows and allocation, is intended for a future plan change. The remainder of the recommendations are non-regulatory and being implemented or considered for implementation.

Te Mahere Wai o te Kahui Taiao

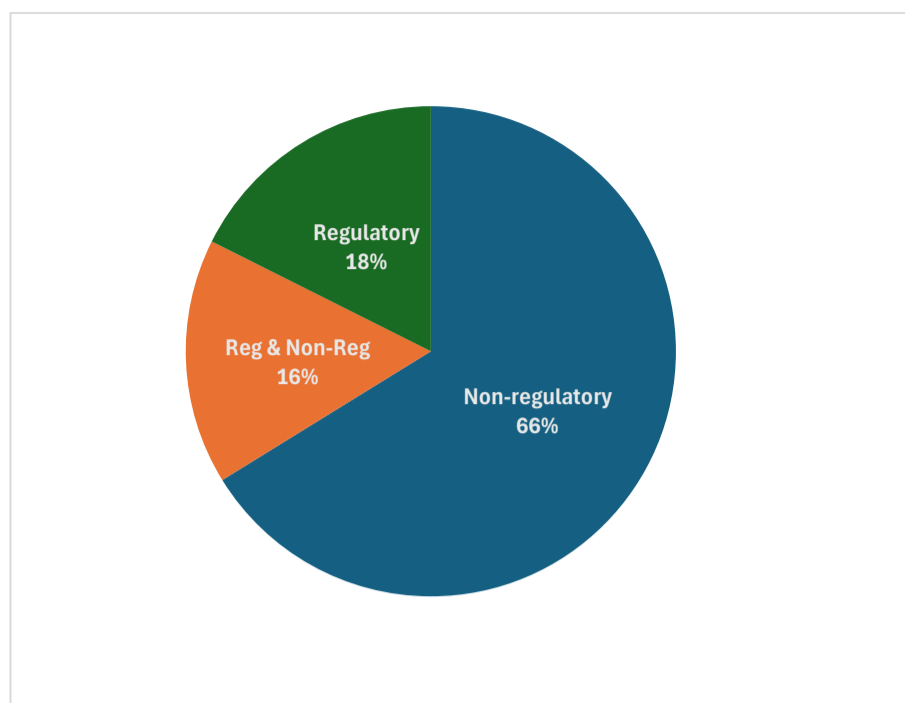


Figure 1 TMW - Split in regulatory status

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Implementation Programme

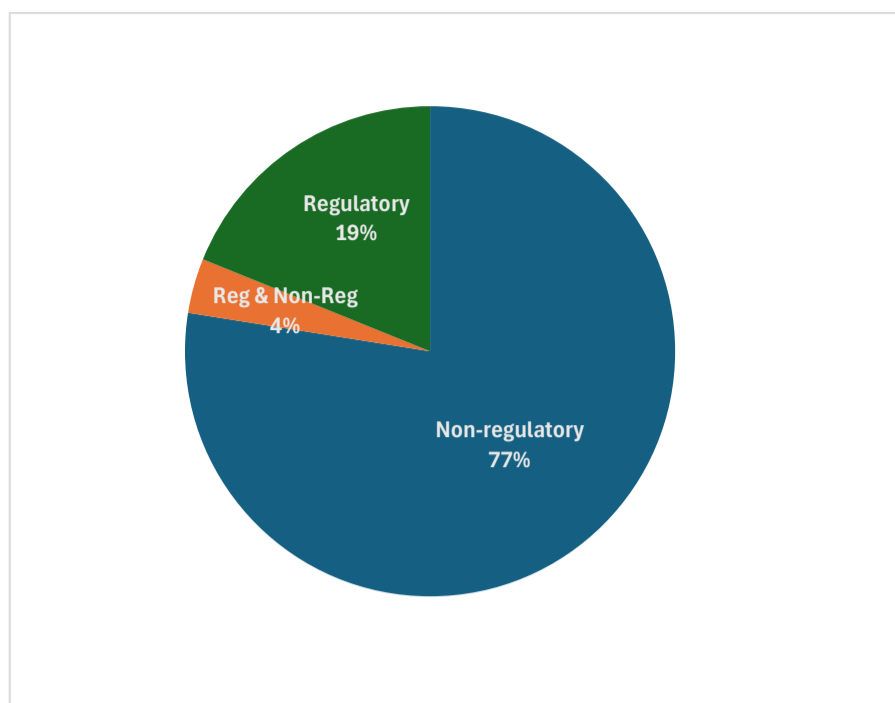


Figure 2 TWT – Split in regulatory status

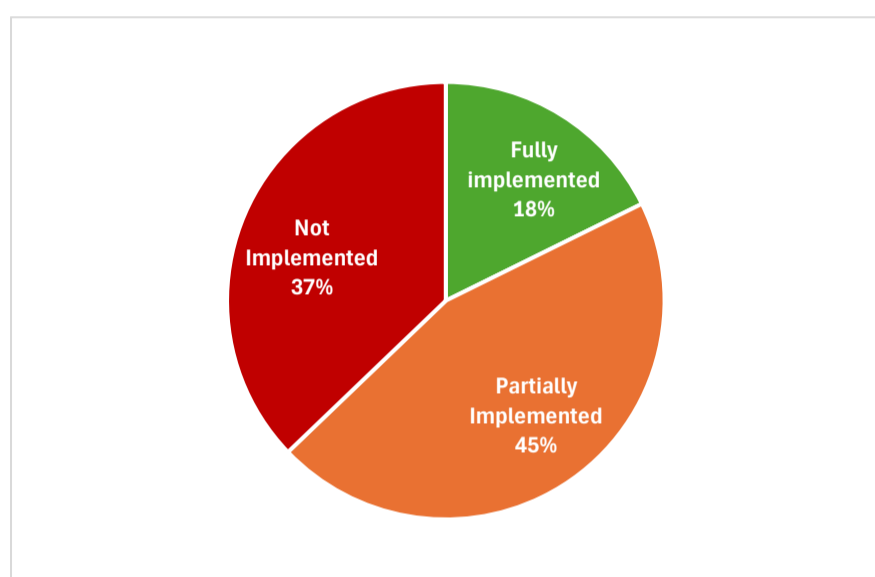


Figure 3 TMW – Non-Regulatory - Implementation Status

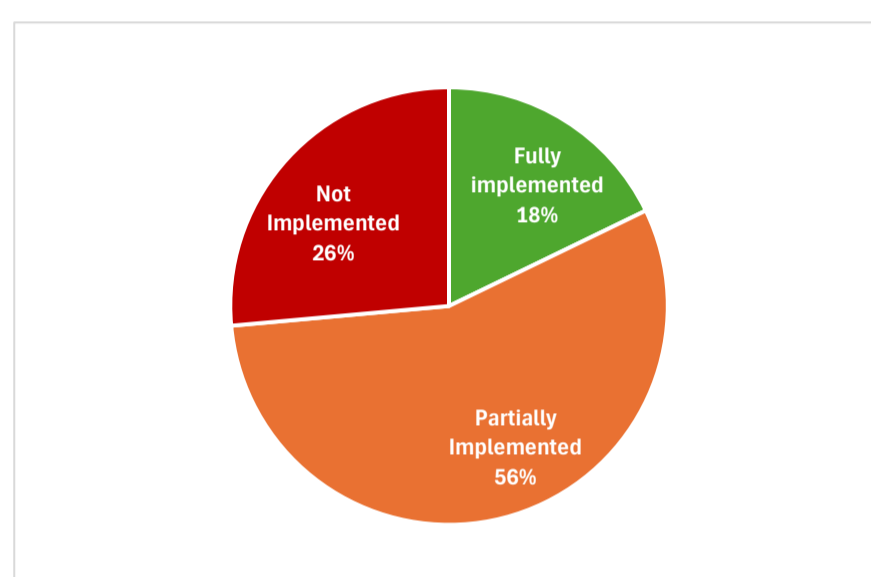


Figure 4 TWT - Non-regulatory - Implementation Status

The 272 actionable sub-points created from the recommendations that can be implemented without regulatory change have had their implementation status broken down in figures 3 and 4. These recommendations involve actions from Greater Wellington, territorial authorities and the water service provider organisation and many have been progressed through the projects set out in the main report. The role of Whaitua Implementation Advisor was established to monitor and coordinate implementation of the recommendation and identify opportunities for more effectiveness.

The latest update comments are compiled into the table below, organised by Whaitua document.

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| Fully Implemented | No additional change or new work is required/cannot be further implemented |
| <i>Fully Implemented: Completed project</i> | <i>Recommendation was implemented through a project that was completed</i> |
| <i>Fully Implemented: Embedded in BAU</i> | <i>Recommendation integrated into ongoing business-as-usual processes.</i> |
| <i>Fully Implemented: By regulatory change</i> | <i>Recommendation implemented by plan change</i> |
| Partially Implemented | Implementation is underway, but not yet completed |
| <i>Partially Implemented: Paused</i> | <i>Work started but is currently on hold.</i> |
| <i>Partially Implemented: Planning</i> | <i>Work is in planning (e.g., project plan, business case, risk assessment, regulation change being developed).</i> |
| <i>Partially Implemented: Delivery</i> | <i>Work is in delivery (e.g., on-site work, contractors or staff executing tasks, regulation change approved and being rolled out).</i> |
| <i>Partially Implemented: Developing regulatory change</i> | <i>Regulation change being developed / in proposed stage</i> |
| Not Implemented | No progress to implement has been made, but is still possible to implement if situation changes |
| <i>Not Implemented: Prerequisite needed</i> | <i>No progress due to a barrier (e.g., legal, technical, funding).</i> |
| <i>Not Implemented: Scoping needed</i> | <i>Work on this has not yet started and needs scoping</i> |
| <i>Not Implemented: Future regulatory change</i> | <i>Future regulatory change is required to implement</i> |
| Won't Implement | Decided not to implement |
| <i>Won't Implement: Governance decision</i> | <i>Decision from governance to not implement.</i> |
| <i>Won't Implement: Outside GWRC mandate</i> | <i>Recommendation is outside GWRC responsibility or authority.</i> |
| <i>Won't Implement: Not feasible</i> | <i>Recommendation isn't feasible to implement in any capacity</i> |
| <i>Unknown Status</i> | <i>Unable to determine status</i> |
| <i>Unknown Status: Awaiting update</i> | <i>Status unclear; awaiting information from responsible organization.</i> |
| <i>Unknown Status: Responsibility undefined</i> | <i>Status unclear; responsible organization not yet assigned.</i> |

Table of explanations for the 2025 implementation status

Te Whanganui-a-Tara

| Recommendation ID | Recommendation Description | 2025 Implementation Progress | 2025 Comment(s) |
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| W1 | Greater Wellington adds all 'first steps' attribute states (short term and generational) identified in the catchment chapters of the WIP into the PRNP as part of the 2022 and 2024 plan changes. | Fully implemented: By Regulatory Change | Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023. Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). |
| W2 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to complete Te Oranga Wai attributes for freshwater and coastal receiving environments for inclusion in the PNRP as part of the 2022 and 2024 plan changes. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Requires greater certainty on the direction of the amended NPSFM and Resource Management Reform on how water quality targets will be given effect in regional plans. Some progress has been achieved through resourcing mana whenua knowledge to input to catchment planning projects. E.g., the Waiwhetū catchment. |
| W3 | Greater Wellington proactively communicates the WIP and Te Mahere Wai with stakeholders, community groups, and partners through a variety of channels to ensure there is adequate awareness in our whaitua to support ongoing dialogue and accountability for implementation. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | No additional update. Fully implemented. |
| W4 | Greater Wellington establishes a community-led reference group tasked with monitoring progress on the implementation of WIP for | Fully implemented: Completed project | No additional update. Fully implemented. |

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| | Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara and ensures that the council is reporting on progress to the wider community in meaningful ways. | | |
| W5 | Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua, and territorial authorities collaborate with communities located around piped and above-ground streams to share those streams' stories through visual images, signs, sculptures, temporary artworks, or other interactive ways that the communities design. | Partially Implemented: Planning | <p>GWRC has contracted someone to map freshwater streams, tributaries, and catchments in Pōneke, identifying Te Mātāpuna headwaters, and promoting awareness and protection of piped streams.</p> <p>The project will create an interactive online map that shows each awa's location, remaining aboveground reaches, catchments, and headwaters. It will share the history and whakaaro linked with these streams. The work also includes monitoring stream health through SHMAK, eDNA testing, and fish counts. The project will identify community groups active in these catchments and explore options for street signs and names for any unnamed streams. The material will link with data held by partners such as Wellington City Council and NIWA.</p> <p>The project lead is now working with the Wellington Botanic Gardens to improve how Pipitea Awa is shown and understood within the Gardens. The lead has also been approached by Wellington City Council, who has sought a Blue Network map for some time. This may lead to opportunities to explore joint work and open a path toward an intercouncil project.</p> |
| W6 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to name unnamed streams, including that currently piped underground, starting with | Partially Implemented: Planning | The work in W5 will support delivery of this recommendation. |

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| | large streams and then smaller streams within the whaitua (by 2026). | | |
| W7 | Greater Wellington and territorial authorities add information to property Land Information Memorandum (LIM) reports about wetlands and streams that a property drains to and its pathway to the sea; the source of the property's water supply; and the treatment of its wastewater | Outside GWRC mandate | GW has provided relevant information it holds to Territorial Authorities |
| W8 | Mana Whenua, community groups and Greater Wellington take advantage of opportunities to get involved in the refresh of the National Curriculum, which guides teaching and learning in schools, with a focus on how well it identifies and grows capabilities that will help realise aspirations for communities that care for wai and te taiao | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>Enviroschools continues to deliver holistic, sustainability-focused education in partnership with local councils. The programme supports teachers and students through facilitator-led learning in areas such as water, energy, waste, and landscapes. Its kaupapa promotes sustainable communities, empowered learners, te ao Māori, and respect for diversity, and can be tailored to curriculum needs.</p> <p>Funding is secured from Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, and Wellington City Councils for 2025. From 2026, WCC funding will cease, though applications have been made for catchment-specific events in Ōwhiro and Karori streams.</p> <p>Greater Wellington and community partners have contributed to the National Curriculum Refresh through Enviroschools staff and sector submissions, advocating for nature connection, environmental education, and climate change learning. Engagement opportunities remain limited due to reduced national consultation.</p> |

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| W9 | <p>Mana Whenua, community groups and Greater Wellington work with early learning centres, schools and kura to develop local resources and supports that help teachers and kaiako to provide teaching and learning that connect tamariki with their local waterways, including piped streams, and grow their understanding of the interconnectedness of the wellbeing of our communities and Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara</p> | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>GW supports environmental education through funding Enviroschools and Mountains to Sea Wellington programmes, providing stream monitoring kits, transport, and project funding for schools to investigate and restore waterways.</p> <p>Enviroschools delivers tailored, place-based learning in schools and kura, often partnering with Mountains to Sea when there is strong interest in water. Mountains to Sea provides freshwater and marine education in Te Awakairangi, connecting learning to catchment restoration projects and fostering community engagement.</p> <p>GWRC has also contracted a contractor to map and name streams, create urban stream signage, identify Te Mātāpuna headwaters, and advocate for piped stream protection.</p> |
| W10 | <p>Greater Wellington, mana whenua, and territorial authorities will establish services by 2025 to support new and existing catchment and community groups. These services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing access to easy-to-use data from relevant sources, including citizen science, tailored to each group’s location and needs. • Inspiring and supporting the formation of new groups. • Funding ongoing organisational and technical support, including laboratory analysis. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>GWRC supports environmental education and catchment awareness through multiple initiatives. Enviroschools and Mountains to Sea Wellington deliver tailored, place-based learning programmes, supported by GWRC funding, stream monitoring kits, transport, and project grants. Enviroschools collaborates with schools and kura to integrate sustainability into learning, often partnering with Mountains to Sea when there is strong interest in water. Mountains to Sea provides freshwater and marine education in Te Awakairangi, linking classroom learning to catchment restoration and conservation action.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting citizen-led science and monitoring with appropriate training and tools. • Incorporating mātauranga Māori monitoring. • Offering specialist support such as engineering, legal advice, guidance on local government processes, and communication assistance. • Supporting catchment coordinators for catchment-scale projects, including project management, facilitation, and fundraising, and connecting to the wider volunteer base. • Providing guidance on prioritising actions consistent with kawa and Te Mana o te Wai. | | <p>The work in W5 will support delivery of this recommendation.</p> <p>Community-based monitoring groups are planning systems to share data with GWRC. Data received from catchment and community groups is compiled into a dashboard, which is in trial and intended for public release. Current barriers include data sovereignty and privacy concerns; a data management plan is being developed by GWRC staff in collaboration with Te Whanganui-a-Tara partners.</p> <p>GWRC provides SHMAK kits, lab analysis funding, and training to community groups upon request. Resourcing and kit availability remain a challenge, and additional staffing may be required. Some work is underway with Ngāti Toa to integrate council monitoring with mātauranga Māori approaches. Mountains to Sea is funded to support community monitoring, and catchment teams provide guidance and relationship support as needed.</p> |
| W11 | <p>Greater Wellington will establish cross-whaitua structures and services to support a connected approach to local action and knowledge sharing. These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial and catchment-level planning to coordinate efforts, clarify roles, and align with Te Mana o te Wai and community goals. • Mechanisms for community-to-community knowledge exchange and group connections. | Partially Implemented: Planning | <p>GW and Community-led efforts have partially implemented this area.</p> <p>11.1 Greater Wellington is a part of many catchment collectives and supports their operation. The environment group is developing catchment plans with communities and mana whenua that will prioritise catchment outcomes and joint-work programmes where needed. Partially.</p> <p>11.2 The Community-led Te Hononga group is a collective of 45+ community catchments groups for the purpose of community-to-community knowledge exchange,</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent processes for accessing and allocating funding, services, and expert advice. • Frameworks that give community groups confidence they are working in partnership with mana whenua. • A strategic approach to using council support services, such as Mountains to Sea Wellington. • A single point of contact for questions and advice across all agencies involved. | | <p>connections, and identification of needs. GW supports collaborative initiatives such as Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara / Sanctuary to Sea that also enables these features. Fully implemented.</p> <p>11.3 The funding approach to the Community Environment Fund has been redevelop around whitua and mana whenua priorities. All GW provided funds are accessible on a single website page. Advertisement is done when a new round is opened. Expert advice is frequently access by community and external projects of GW subject matter experts. The Catchment function often coordinates these requests where multiple areas of knowledge are needed. Partially.</p> <p>11.4 The Environment Group is in the process of developing first-generation catchment plans that consolidates community and mana whenua outcomes and information about the catchments. The WIP documents have been used by many community groups to influence their thinking about addressing issues in line with mana whenua aims. Partially.</p> <p>11.5 Mountains to Sea Wellington and EnviroSchools are services that have worked directly to community and groups, including skills training around community-led environmental monitoring. In the future catchment plans will have a role in directing the strategic focusses for services around catchment outcomes. Partially.</p> <p>11.6 The new Catchment Function (as of May 2023) in GW's Environment Group holds an engagement role for any community contact</p> |
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| | | | and holds awareness of all agency activities in each catchment area. Partially. |
| W12 | <p>Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua develop resources (by 2024) that community groups can use and adapt for their own communication with local communities, to help build understanding, connections and involvement that complement messages and campaigns by councils and water agencies. Specific themes to include are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where drinking water comes from, and the relationships between activities in the Hutt Valley and risks to the Waiwhetū aquifer. • Awa as tipuna, living entities of distinctive mana and whakapapa. • Our responsibility to respect the awa and their mana, and act on this in our behaviour with water. • The state of our waterways, including for different places. • Action being taken, including for different places. • Actions people can take, including those specific to their local areas. | Partially Implemented | <p>GWRC supports environmental education and catchment awareness through funding EnviroSchools and Mountains to Sea Wellington, providing stream monitoring kits, transport, and project funding for schools to investigate and restore waterways. EnviroSchools delivers tailored, place-based learning and often partners with Mountains to Sea when there is strong interest in water.</p> <p>Mountains to Sea hosts educational resources on habitat restoration and Īnanga spawning and works with GWRC to identify and prioritise catchment groups for support.</p> <p>GWRC also consults with groups such as Te Hononga ki Te Upoko to assess needs.</p> <p>Wellington Water promotes water conservation and provides daily updates during dry periods.</p> <p>The work in W5 will support delivery of this recommendation.</p> |
| W13 | <p>Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua, and territorial authorities partner with communities in developing catchment plans, co-designing their journeys and sharing the delivery process and roles required to achieve Te Mana o te Wai and local outcomes. This will help groups to know where to put their best efforts and provide clear resourcing strategies to follow through with their plans.</p> | Partially Implemented: Planning | <p>Catchment plan development is underway. In 2024/25, efforts focused on Waiwhetū due to it being a priority catchment with a range of interrelated issues. GW continues as partner to the Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara Strategy Group which co-ordinates joined up efforts in that catchment. Additional implementation at sub-catchment level is needed to fully achieve the recommendation.</p> |

| W14 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua and catchment groups to make data easily available and accessible in a user-friendly way, including using aggregated data | Partially Implemented: Planning | <p>Greater Wellington currently provides environmental data via two platforms: the GW Environmental Data Dashboard which displays selected near real-time information such as river flow, temperature, and climate data; and the LAWA website which displays a range of national and regional environmental information.</p> <p>We previously developed the He Kākano platform for visual and narrative summaries of our work across the region, but the success of He Kākano was impeded by our low data maturity. He Kākano was subsequently paused in 2024/25, in favour of strengthening our collective data management practices. The Environment Group Data Committee is now leading strategic improvements to our data management, including consistent capture and sharing of information and we have a new work programme entitled Place-Based Knowledge Exchange, which aims to improve how we share data and information and present accessible narratives. We are currently working to understand the audience needs for this programme which supersedes He Kākano.</p> <p>Community-based monitoring groups are developing systems to share their data with GW. The data provided by catchment and community partners is compiled in a dashboard that is currently in trial and intended for public release.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Progress remains constrained by data sovereignty and privacy requirements. GW staff and Te Whanganui-a-Tara partners are developing a data management plan to address these barriers.</p> <p>The Kia Mouriora te Kaiwharawhara / Sanctuary to Sea initiative, to which GW contributes, is also preparing a spatial and historical dashboard of catchment information. Release is planned for early 2025.</p> |
| W15 | <p>Greater Wellington provides more specific, local information on water quality to communities – through making existing data more readily available and collecting new data, including via citizen science programmes, Greater Wellington monitoring programmes and the integration of the two (where appropriate).</p> | Partially Implemented: Delivery | The work in W5 will support delivery of this recommendation. |
| W16 | <p>Greater Wellington, with Mana Whenua and communities, develops a toxic algal bloom action plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management actions • A monitoring plan specific to toxic algae • Research priorities • Climate change adaptation • A communications approach that supports community and Mana Whenua visions and outcomes | Partially Implemented | <p>Summer monitoring and public education campaigns continue, with increased focus on Lake Wairarapa planktonic algae investigations and communication. However, no formal action plan has been commissioned. Current management actions remain focused to reducing nitrogen leaching in hotspot areas.</p> <p>A robust monitoring system is in place and informs reporting. A 10-year study has been completed and can be used to support further development.</p> <p>Strong communication protocols and public information systems are maintained to ensure</p> |

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| | | | that Mana Whenua and Communities are aware of issues and news as it arises. |
| W17 | Greater Wellington amends regulatory documents to require the relevant three waters agency to develop a stormwater strategy (by 2023), within the global stormwater network resource consent, to contribute to achieving the relevant first steps in each of the catchment tables under the heading 'Journey from current state to wai ora' | Partially Implemented: Paused | Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023. Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026. |
| W18 | Greater Wellington amends regulatory documents to require the relevant three waters agency to develop a strategy/plan (by 2023), within the wastewater network resource consents, to contribute to achieving the relevant first steps in each of the catchment tables under the heading 'Journey from current state to wai ora'. | Partially Implemented: Paused | Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023. Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026. |
| W19 | The relevant three waters agency increases the number of repairs and renewals in the public wastewater infrastructure (aligning with the strategy in Recommendation 18) to ensure that: | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Wellington Water operates an ongoing programme of wastewater renewals and relining to reduce infiltration into or exfiltration from the wastewater network, both of which |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2033, no more than approximately 22 per cent of the wastewater pipe network will be worse than grade 3 (average condition) • By 2040, no more than ~12 per cent of the wastewater pipe network will be worse than grade 3 (average condition) • By 2050, no wastewater pipe assets will be below grade 3, and asset management plans will be actively identifying and replacing ageing pipes or pipes in poor condition. | | <p>can cause wastewater contamination. Recent examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darling Road (WCC): Relined 97 m of pipe. E. coli dropped from 35,000 → 0 cfu/100mL post works • Awarua Street (WCC): Relined 65 m of pipe. E. coli reduced from 80,000 → 68 cfu/100mL post works • Taranaki Street (WCC): Two segments of pipe were relined (80 m & 86 m); E. coli fell from 80,000 → 2,300 cfu/100mL post works • Glenbrook Grove (HCC): relined 74m of pipe. E. coli dropped from 20,000 to 300 cfu/100mL post repair. <p>These significant reductions are consistent with sealing infiltration/exfiltration pathways and removing human-sourced contamination pathways.</p> |
| W20 | Territorial authorities and the relevant three waters agency prioritise the repair and replacement of public wastewater assets that lead to overflows on private or public land. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Wellington Water has grown its monitoring of wastewater overflows through wider use of flow meters, smoke and dye tests, CCTV work, and property checks. These checks have found faults in both public and private parts of the network. Wellington Water has fixed public network faults and has worked with owners to fix private ones. The Knowing Your Pipes programme has shown strong gains through large drops in E. coli after repairs. Wellington Water has also carried out renewal and relining work across the region to seal pipes and stop infiltration and exfiltration. This work shows clear progress toward the W23 aim to gather more data, find faults, and fix them. |

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| W21 | A target of zero wastewater overflows (by 2060) is achieved, except in infrequent situations (such as pump failures or rainfall events) with a >25-year average return period (ARI). To meet this goal, we recommend implementing six-yearly targets for reducing wastewater overflows set out in the relevant three waters agency's 2024 wastewater strategy and resource consent. These overflow reductions must align with our obligation to achieve the relevant first steps in each of the catchment tables under the heading 'Journey from current state to wai ora' and the primary contact recreation national bottom lines set by central government by 2040. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | See W19 and W20 |
| W22 | The relevant three waters agency investigates, and reports to, Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua (by 2022) on the feasibility of pre-treating wastewater overflows and any locations where this could be prioritised for upcoming Long Term Plan reviews. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update. |
| W23 | The relevant three waters agency increases its monitoring of wastewater overflows across the network, with the aim of identifying faults through increased data collection (by 2025). The identified faults are to be repaired in line with the timelines specified in Recommendations 19, 27 and 28 | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Wellington Water has grown its monitoring of wastewater overflows through wider use of flow meters, smoke and dye tests, CCTV work, and property checks. These checks have found faults in both public and private parts of the network. Wellington Water has fixed public network faults and has worked with owners to fix private ones. The Knowing Your Pipes programme has shown strong gains through large drops in E. coli after repairs. Wellington Water has also carried out renewal and relining work across the region to seal pipes and stop infiltration and exfiltration. This work shows clear progress toward the W23 aim to gather more data, find faults, and fix them. |

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| W24 | <p>Greater Wellington amends the relevant regulatory documents, and the relevant three waters agency increases its investigations of, the public/ private water networks (by 2030) to identify all cross-connections (wastewater connected to stormwater) and inflow faults (stormwater connected to wastewater).</p> <p>The assessed pipe conditions and any faults are to be recorded on the relevant properties' LIMs and updated as repairs are made.</p> | Partially Implemented: Paused | <p>Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023.</p> <p>See W19 and W20</p> |
| W25 | <p>Greater Wellington amends the relevant regulatory documents on, the public/ private water networks (by 2040) to identify all groundwater infiltration (to the wastewater network) and wastewater leakage (exfiltration).</p> <p>The relevant three waters agency increases its investigations of the public/ private water networks (by 2040) to identify all groundwater infiltration (to the wastewater network) and wastewater leakage (exfiltration).</p> <p>The assessed pipe conditions and any faults are to be recorded on the relevant properties' LIMs and updated as repairs are made.</p> | Partially Implemented: Paused | See W19, W20 and W24 |
| W26 | <p>All territorial authorities provide financing mechanisms (subject to appropriate terms and conditions) no later than 2024 to assist landowners to fix faults in private laterals. These mechanisms could be deferred payments collected through rates, or territorial authorities could recover the costs when the properties are sold.</p> | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | See W19 and W27 |

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| | Territorial authorities and the relevant three waters agency also provide supporting advice to private landowners on their rights and responsibilities regarding private laterals | | |
| W27 | Territorial authorities apply their existing powers under the Local Government Act 1974 and Health Act 1956 to ensure landowners repair all faults related to cross-connections (wastewater to stormwater) and inflows (stormwater to wastewater) within two years of their identification. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>Wellington Water undertakes regular targeted investigations to reduce inflow and infiltration into the wastewater network or leaks from the network. This includes flow monitoring, smoke and dye testing, CCTV inspections, and property checks to identify illegal wastewater/stormwater connections and leaky pipes. Faults found during inspections are either triaged for repair by Wellington Water (if on the public network) or referred to property owners for correction (for private laterals).</p> <p>Renewal works such as pipe lining, bursting and thrusting, and patch repairs have been carried out across the region to reduce groundwater infiltration and stormwater inflow.</p> <p>The “Knowing Your Pipes” programme smoke-tested 217 properties, dye-tested 213, and CCTV-inspected 211 laterals (over 6.3 km) in the Hutt Valley since 2022. Public network repairs included manhole fixes and root cutting. Follow-up sampling showed significant drops in E. coli after repairs.</p> <p>In Porirua, this programme identified 19 private laterals with illegal wastewater and stormwater connections. The Knowing Your Pipes team has worked closely with homeowners and the Council to ensure all these issues were rectified.</p> |

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| W28 | <p>Territorial authorities, through the relevant three waters agency, apply their existing powers under the Local Government Act 1974 and Health Act 1956 to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All identified leaky private wastewater laterals, including infiltration and/or exfiltration leaks, are fixed within five years of identification. Enforcement action is to be taken if the fixes are not made in this time. • By 2045, all identified leaky private wastewater laterals have been fixed, and an ongoing cycle of maintenance is in place. <p>A database is developed and maintained of the conditions and ages of all private and public assets in the three waters network.</p> | Partially Implemented: Delivery | See W19 and W27 |
| W29 | <p>By 2025, territorial authorities and the relevant three waters entity develop a process (such as a ‘warrant of fitness’), through which the condition of private laterals is assessed at the point of a property’s sale or when a building consent application is lodged. The costs are to be covered by the property owners.</p> <p>The condition of these laterals, and any faults revealed through the process, are to be recorded on the properties’ LIMs with the information updated as repairs are made (aligning with the timelines in Recommendations 27 and 28). Once the repairs are complete, an ongoing cycle of inspection and maintenance should be established.</p> | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | See W19 and W27 |

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| W30 | By 2024, territorial authorities must implement regulatory and policy measures requiring landowners to repair failed private laterals and record these failures on LIMs until repairs are complete, while also providing a funding mechanism—such as rates instalments or cost recovery upon property sale—to support landowners in completing the repairs. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | See W19 and W27 |
| W31 | Relevant three waters agency investigates methods (by 2025) to significantly reduce sludge going to landfills from wastewater treatment plants. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>Construction is underway on Te Whare Wai Para Nuku, a sludge minimisation facility at Moa Point. This plant will reduce sludge volumes to Southern Landfill by up to 80% and cut sludge-related carbon emissions by 60% through thermal hydrolysis and anaerobic digestion, producing a reusable product that does not require landfill disposal. This project is funded and being led by WCC and completion is expected in 2026.</p> <p>Wellington Water has also updated work on biosolids strategy, to work towards further reducing sludge disposal to landfills and is actively working with council officers around the region to share knowledge and progress projects to achieve this outcome.</p> |
| W32 | <p>Greater Wellington and territorial authorities provide good-practice information and advice to septic tank owners.</p> <p>They also develop a programme for regular septic tank investigations undertaken in rural/lifestyle areas in the whitua, with the aim of improving their understanding of the impact of septic tanks on water quality, ecology, and public health.</p> | Partially Implemented: Planning | No additional update. |

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| | Where septic tanks are identified as affecting water quality, ecology or public health, territorial authorities or Greater Wellington are to collaborate with the relevant landowners to reduce these effects by repairing, replacing, or enhancing their septic systems and having an ongoing cycle of maintenance. | | |
| W33 | <p>Greater Wellington provides sufficient Land Management advisory resources and funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of actions at property and catchment levels to achieve catchment plan objectives. • Support landowners' implementation of national stock exclusion rules. • Help link farmers' action (including through their Freshwater Farm Plans) to catchment plans. • Help small block owners to link their actions to catchment plans. • Support the implementation of Freshwater Farm Plans to ensure quality delivery of farm planning services and effective connections to catchment plans. • Promote the uptake of best management practice and ensure open communication between landowners and Greater Wellington to keep best practices up to date. • Integrate advice to landowners with other relevant objectives to achieve co-benefits (e.g., carbon sequestration, biodiversity) | Partially implemented | <p>Central government is expected to release new direction on Farm Plans by the end of the year. Work to support implementation has been scoped within the policy transition programme, with decisions on priority actions anticipated before year-end. The regulatory context for farm plans remains uncertain, but they are likely to link to catchment plans through catchment contexts.</p> <p>Additional work has been scoped to improve rural waterbody health in collaboration with primary sector groups. Proposed actions include investigating financial support and rates relief for land retirement and revegetation, increasing uptake of Farm Environment Plans, promoting good management practices, delivering targeted engagement for small landowners (<20ha), and identifying gaps in sector needs. Decisions on prioritisation are expected by year-end.</p> <p>Five advisors are assigned to the KNE programme and fifteen advisors to Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) across the region, including two in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Advisory services connect small block owners with catchment outcomes and provide</p> |

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| | | | <p>guidance on good management practices using the 3E principles (engage, educate, enable) supported by incentives programmes.</p> <p>Scoping has also been undertaken for permitted activity guidance on small farm dams under the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy and for identifying nature-based solutions as required by RPS Change 1 (Method CC.6). Decisions on these workstreams are anticipated by the end of the year.</p> <p>Stock exclusion is encouraged through funding incentives, with further investigation of land management practices near water races signalled in policy scoping. Team engagement with landowners includes holistic advice on catchment and climate objectives.</p> |
| W34 | <p>Greater Wellington supports landowners to exclude livestock from waterways by helping them develop and implement practices that reduce stock access to streams not covered by national regulations.</p> <p>Greater Wellington supports landowners to exclude livestock from waterways by investigating the specific impacts of horses on water quality and considering further stock exclusion regulations if horses are found to be a significant source of contaminants.</p> | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | As per W33 and 2024 comments |
| W35 | Greater Wellington investigates alternative incentives (e.g., rates rebates) to increase landowners' uptake of revegetation projects, including projects using native plant species. This applies particularly to landowners with | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Research into alternative incentives is considered based on deliverable outcomes. Incentive programmes may be reviewed in future to be more effective. GW currently has a |

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| | marginal and erosion-prone land (to reduce erosion and sediment loss), wetlands (for nutrient stripping, etc), and rural catchments (to slow flood flows further down the catchment). | | strategic advisor employed to review the erosion control programme. |
| W36 | Greater Wellington supports the development of property-specific information to inform Freshwater Farm Plan development, particularly for managing diffuse discharges, CSA (Critical Source Area, i.e., hotspot) management, riparian planting (to complement stream fencing regs), and management methods for those streams where stock exclusion rules do not apply | Not Implemented: Prerequisite needed | The regulatory context for farm plans remains uncertain; however, GWRC continues to provide informal, property-specific advice to support voluntary farm planning. Knowledge and Insights are developing a sediment risk assessment project using the SedNetNZ model to assist the Restoration team. This tool will help identify critical source areas at both farm and catchment scales. |
| W37 | Greater Wellington provides enough staff and resources to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with forestry groups (New Zealand Farm Forestry Association, New Zealand Forest Owners Association) and contractors to provide proactive advisory support that includes ensuring all forestry operators are aware (by 2023) of relevant regulatory requirements and good practice. • Ensure all forestry operators in the whaitua are monitored for compliance with the National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) and other relevant requirements from 2023 onwards and share this monitoring information with the community. • Take enforcement action on non-compliance. | Partially Implemented | GWRC has a Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Officer dedicated to forestry. Monitoring data is not actively shared but is available upon request by the community. A forestry stakeholder liaison group for the Wellington region will be established next year to include all stakeholders. GWRC promotes best environmental practice from a non-regulatory perspective. Consent-based forestry activities are scheduled for compliance monitoring at least once a year. Permitted activities are not regularly monitored due to resourcing constraints. |

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| W38 | <p>Greater Wellington and territorial authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are exemplars of good practice on all council-owned land and infrastructure, including • contaminated land, farms, forestry land, wetlands, and golf courses. • Provide information on how good-practice decisions have been made. • Report publicly on their year-on-year improvements. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | No additional update. |
| W39 | <p>Greater Wellington, territorial authorities, and the relevant three waters agency set an example by ensuring that (from 2022), their fleet vehicles are renewed with copper-free brake pads or replaced by vehicles with these pads.</p> | Not implemented: Prerequisite needed | <p>As per advice provided in 2024, the costs and risks for implementing this is substantial against the possible Environmental benefit gained and would require a governance decision to implement. Estimated costs for replacing brakes with copper-free components are at least \$15k per vehicle. Our vehicle warranties will be void for accidents and repairs where braking is shown to be a contributor. Due to these costs, implementation of this recommendation has not been further scoped.</p> |
| W40 | <p>Territorial authorities review and strengthen their plumbing consent and code compliance processes (by 2024), to ensure there are clear accountabilities and consequences for compliance transgressions and ultimately a low risk of future illegal cross-connections.</p> | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>Wellington Water provides regional standards and specifications for water services, including stormwater infrastructure, which reflect current best practice. Wellington Water also has guidance on Water sensitive design. These resources are intended for contractors, developers, and industries working on projects in the region. Wellington Water also works with developers as part of land development consenting processes.</p> |

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| | | | In Wellington City, Wellington Water's Commercial Connections Team refers cases of issues inappropriate substances entering the stormwater system from commercial or industrial sites to Greater Wellington as required (while managing trade waste matters). |
| W41 | <p>Greater Wellington and the relevant three waters agency engage with and express the importance of environmental consequences to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board, relevant professional regulatory bodies, and industry organisations. These organisations shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together improve their systems of communication and reporting for disciplinary complaints • Become active and consistent in reporting discovered evidence of sub-standard tradesperson work, especially for instances of illegal wastewater to stormwater connections. • Apply disciplinary action as set out under the defined offences in section 89 of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | See W40 |
| W42 | The relevant three waters agency works with industry organisations to reinforce or improve standards, communication, and training for best industry practice. Priority should be given to industries where there is high interaction with the stormwater and wastewater network (e.g., painters and cleaners). | Partially Implemented: Delivery | See W40 |

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| W43 | Greater Wellington investigates and considers adopting new mechanisms to improve compliance (such as restorative processes and requiring bonds for earthworks and forest harvesting). | Fully implemented: Completed project | The Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) Policy has been formally adopted. |
| W44 | Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua work with territorial authorities to ensure that all large green spaces (e.g., parks, school grounds, golf courses) are managed to reduce the infiltration of fertiliser into groundwater and waterways, with plans in place (by 2023) that include public reporting. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update. |
| W45 | With input from the relevant three waters agency (by 2026), Greater Wellington and territorial authorities develop or amend regulatory instruments to help reduce the risk of contaminants entering the stormwater system. | Partially Implemented: Paused | Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023. Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026. |
| W46 | Greater Wellington and territorial authorities develop a scheme to support the painting or replacing of large-scale high zinc-yielding roofs, which could include education, advice, and incentives. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update. |
| W47 | Greater Wellington and territorial authorities develop a scheme to reduce the impacts on waterways from the washing of cars. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update. |

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| W48 | Greater Wellington and territorial authorities investigate options to minimise the impacts of agrichemical sprays on waterways and report on options (by 2025). | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update. |
| W49 | <p>Greater Wellington, territorial authorities, the relevant three waters agency and relevant industry groups develop and implement a pollution prevention programme. This will be outlined, delivered, and monitored through various mechanisms. This program must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the awareness of the public about what they can do to reduce their impacts on harbour and stream health. • Promote and incentivise industry good management practice, targeting high-risk land-use activities that contribute relatively high levels of contamination. • Identify and target priority areas for contaminant reduction based on the identification of catchments that contribute to localised hotspot areas. • Investigate opportunities to enable change by streamlining regulatory processes and removing barriers to businesses and industries initiating change. • Work with specific industries/suppliers to increase understanding around risks from exterior chemical cleaning products, with an aim to reduce usage through point-of-sale warnings and changes in product care advice. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>Regulation is working with Communications to improve public awareness of stream and harbour health through social media. The Hydrological Control Guidance document has been released to help developers understand stormwater impacts and implement appropriate control measures.</p> <p>Work has been scoped under Method 43 of PC1 to support urban waterbody health. Proposed actions include developing a pollution prevention programme for high-risk industrial and trade premises, partnering with Wellington Water to deliver stormwater education and promote water-sensitive urban design, investigating options to reduce hydrological impacts through rainwater tank retrofits, encouraging innovative practice and research, and developing a strategic compliance approach for urban discharges and land use.</p> <p>Decisions on priority actions within the transitional work programme are expected by year-end.</p> <p>Progress on related initiatives is linked to PC1 which is currently paused, though remains in effect, pending Cabinet decisions on the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, anticipated early next year.</p> |

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| W50 | Territorial authorities and the relevant three waters agency work together in high-risk areas to increase and prioritise regular street sweeping and sump clearance. They also need to investigate other opportunities to capture and clear contaminants from stormwater drains, including those to increase awareness and education with residents and businesses about how they can reduce contaminants (e.g., litter ending up in waterways). | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Sump clearing is the responsibility of city council roading teams. Sumps are cleared as required if blockages are identified by the Council roading team as part of their sump clearance work. |
| W51 | Greater Wellington collaborates with territorial authorities, Mana Whenua, and landowners to identify and document (by 2026) the locations of potentially contaminated land, including landfills, and the risks to water quality and aquatic ecosystems. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>Progress continues identifying and collaborating with territorial authorities regarding closed and historic landfills and their impacts on freshwater and coastal waters. Prioritisation of the MfE Landfill Ranking Analysis, using the Tonkin and Taylor risk tool, is underway as part of the WPP Contaminated Land workstream. Intern resource has been secured to advance this project, which will provide quality information to inform future actions.</p> <p>Key gaps remain, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full documentation of risks to aquatic ecosystems. • Formal engagement with mana whenua and landowners. • Completion of identification and documentation for all sites. |
| W52 | Greater Wellington, territorial authorities, and Mana Whenua work with owners of land with contaminated sites to further investigate, monitor, develop and implement remediation plans for those that pose medium-to-high risks to water quality and aquatic ecosystems. These plans are to be developed within five years of the identification of these sites, and | Partially Implemented | Identification of contaminated sites with Knowledge and Insights. The potential replacement of the SLUR database is being considered as part of the Resource Consent Management System (RCMS) project. If successful, the new system would provide a more user-friendly interface with external client portals, dashboard functionality, and |

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| | <p>those posing high risks to water quality are to be prioritised for remediation.</p> | | <p>greater internal flexibility to tag sites of interest while maintaining record management responsibilities for NMS and reporting.</p> <p>A Whaitua data field has been added to the SLUR database to enable filtering for mana whenua concerns and reporting. Environmental Regulation processing officers use SLUR for information sharing and maintain relationships with mana whenua through the Te Wāhi portal, which improves awareness of development on contaminated sites or sites near areas of significance.</p> <p>Current process: If contamination is known, resource consent is required for development and remediation. Below certain thresholds, remediation requires landowner agreement.</p> |
| W53 | <p>Agencies involved in the remediation of contaminated land affecting water quality and aquatic ecosystems include Mana Whenua in decision making and involve, consider, and contain the visions and ideas of community groups in the planning and implementation, including as part of developing catchment plans (see Recommendation 13).</p> | Partially Implemented | <p>Progress continues addressing closed and historic landfills, though not all sites have been identified. The Contaminated Sites and Verification Landfill Framework (CSVLF) has been closed, with MfE accepting WCC invoices and documentation. GWRC’s final task is to update the SLUR entry once proposed amendments are confirmed by the SQEP. WCC acknowledged the support and collaboration provided by Knowledge and Insights.</p> <p>Remediation of the Te Raekaihau Point site was completed in May 2025, with 2,345.4 tonnes of material removed to the Southern Landfill—twice the estimated volume. WCC committed to removing all identifiable material from the delineated area. The site</p> |

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| | | | <p>was reinstated with imported topsoil and adjacent beach gravels to ensure erosion resistance. A planting day in July 2025, organised by WCC and attended by mana whenua, community, and GW representatives, marked the completion of works. No complaints were received during the operation.</p> <p>The site remains listed in the SLUR database. WCC will monitor it under a long-term management procedure and OSMP.</p> <p>GWRC granted \$50,000 in the 2024 LTP to progress holistic design options for closed landfill leachate issues and mana whenua and community restoration visions in the Haewai / Houghton Valley sub-catchment. This is underway and will complete first half of 2026.</p> |
| W54 | <p>Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, the relevant three waters agency and the community actively work together to better protect the current and future sources (surface water and groundwater) of human drinking-water from emerging threats. They do this by investigating the risks associated with water quality and quantity and managing activities that may adversely affect this (such as land use and contaminant discharges). This may include developing district and regional plan provisions and other methods.</p> | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>For future plan change. Future changes will proceed after 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows.</p> |
| W55.1 | <p>The relevant three waters agency's (currently Wellington Water) Regional Standard for Water Services should incorporate WSUD</p> | Fully implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023.</p> |

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| | stormwater and water conservation interventions. | | Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026. |
| W55.2 | Also, territorial authorities' codes of practice and district plans should be amended to refer to the Regional Standard for Water Services (where applicable) by 2025, and should be mandatory for all developments (greenfield, infill/brownfield and re-development, including infrastructure). It should be supported through education programmes for contractors, community groups, and the design and engineering community. | Fully implemented | No additional comment to 2024 |
| W56 | By 2022, Greater Wellington convenes a WSUD working group with Mana Whenua, territorial authorities, the relevant three waters agency and Waka Kotahi. The group will need to be funded to cover its wide-ranging work, which will aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve barriers to WSUD in the Wellington Region • Identify opportunities to retrofit WSUD and green infrastructure into the existing urban environments, incorporating communities and catchment-level planning. • Identify opportunities to 'daylight' piped streams and restore existing | Partially Implemented | As a part of the establishment the new 3 waters entity Tiaki Wai / Metro Water, GW is represented on a Stormwater Working Group that is looking at the specific roles and processes for stormwater planning and management. There are no plans to progress further policy work on this at present. It is supported by PC1 and by new direction in RPS Change 1, which requires regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. RPS Change 1 is anticipated to become operative early next year. |

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| | <p>streams to promote community connection, habitat restoration, and flood mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example in promoting new WSUD initiatives. <p>The working group should be part of Greater Wellington’s newly established regional stormwater forum. It should also collaborate with key stakeholders (such as developers and commercial, industrial, and residential community groups) and help provide education and training material/ programmes for contractors.</p> | | <p>Greater Wellington has produced guidance to support developers on hydrological control requirements in PC1 to manage stormwater discharges and protect waterbody health: Hydrological Control Guidance.</p> |
| W57 | <p>By 2025, Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua and territorial authorities amend the relevant planning documents to retain, restore, and enhance the natural drainage system – so that they require hydraulic neutrality and water-quality treatment in urban catchments through WSUD.</p> | <p>Fully implemented: By Regulatory Change</p> | <p>Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023.</p> <p>Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026.</p> <p>Supported by new direction in RPS Change 1 requiring regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. This is anticipated to become operative in the new year. Confirm with Richard Sheild if this is in district plan</p> |

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| W58 | <p>Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua, together with territorial authorities and the relevant three waters agency, develop (by 2025) a comprehensive suite of regulatory and non-regulatory interventions for new property developments and infrastructure, to be implemented through WSUD via a catchment-management approach. These interventions would include water impact assessments, rainwater/stormwater harvesting, rain gardens, constructed wetlands, green roofs, improved sump maintenance, strategic street sweeping and permeable pavements to reduce water-quality impacts and reduce peak wet weather flows. Existing properties and infrastructure should be retrofitted using this WSUD approach whenever opportunities arise (e.g., at the end of an asset’s life).</p> | Fully implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023.</p> <p>Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026.</p> <p>Greater Wellington has produced guidance to support developers around new hydrological control requirements in PC1 to manage stormwater discharges to support the health of waterbodies https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Resource-Consents/Stormwater/Greater-Wellington-Hydrological-Control-Guidance-Note-v2.pdf</p> |
| W59 | <p>By 2025 the relevant three waters agency support the global stormwater strategy (recommendation 56) and recommendation 58 by.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a standardised tool (by 2025) that can be used to assess a development’s potential contributions of contaminants and hydrological impacts. • Recommends potential options to mitigate these effects using site-appropriate WSUD green infrastructure. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | <p>Supported by PC1</p> <p>A decision to pause PC1 has meant that hearings have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early next year.</p> <p>No work planned on this at this stage to develop standardized tool</p> |

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| W60 | By 2025, Greater Wellington and territorial authorities amend the relevant planning documents so that all resource consents for property developments and infrastructure upgrades/repairs require the minimisation of stormwater effects and achieve hydraulic neutrality on-site. Where this is not possible or practical on development sites, a formal stormwater offsetting programme could be adopted to fund more efficient centralised systems in the public realm. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Supported by PC1. A decision to pause PC1 has meant that hearings have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early next year. Supported by new direction in RPS Change 1 requiring regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. This is anticipated to become operative in the new year. |
| W61 | Territorial authorities amend regulatory documents, while working with the relevant three waters agency, to (by 2035) reduce the effects of stormwater flooding on public health, safety, and property by further integrating the use of roads and open spaces (such as parks and sports grounds) to function as overland flow paths and flood storage. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Supported by new direction in RPS Change 1 requiring regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. This is anticipated to become operative in 2026. District plans are identifying high risk areas. |
| W62 | By 2024, territorial authorities work with the relevant three waters agency to develop an approach to the ownership and management of green infrastructure for property developments, and ensure this infrastructure meets appropriate standards when being vested to council ownership. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | As a part of the establishment the new 3 waters entity Tiaki Wai / Metro Water, GW is represented on a Stormwater Working Group that is looking at the specific roles and processes for stormwater planning and management. |

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| W63 | Territorial authorities ensure that (by 2024) all green infrastructure is adequately capitalised and depreciated to provide funding for ongoing maintenance and renewals. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update. |
| W64 | <p>Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua, community groups, and territorial authorities to amend (by 2024) all relevant regulatory documents to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That river management enhances habitat restoration and stormwater treatment along the full length of developed rivers. • The protection of swimming holes. | Fully Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023.</p> <p>Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026.</p> |
| W65 | Territorial authorities update the relevant regulatory documents (by 2025) to ensure they incorporate up-to-date flood hazard mapping and are supported by rules that prevent property development in high-risk areas. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Supported by new direction in RPS Change 1 requiring regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. This is anticipated to become operative in the new year.</p> <p>Updated flood hazard maps for Lower Hutt were completed in 2025 and included in the draft Hutt City Council District Plan.</p> |
| W66.1 | By 2024, Greater Wellington amends the relevant regulatory documents to include policies that aim to avoid unsuitable property development, with reference to setbacks from stream/river margins and hydraulic neutrality. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Fully implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023.</p> <p>Noting: While the Plan Change 1 is notified and remains in effect for new resource consent applications, the decision to pause means the full hearings and appeals processes towards a fully operative plan have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is</p> |

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| | | | <p>greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early 2026.</p> <p>Supported by new direction in RPS Change 1 requiring regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. This is anticipated to become operative in the new year.</p> |
| W66.2 | <p>By 2025, territorial authorities incorporate rules in their district plans that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require WSUD, including hydraulic neutrality in any developments. • Provide for buildings to be set back from river and stream margins (these setbacks are to provide for āhua and natural character) • Restrict development in known overland flow paths (in line with Recommendation 61). | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Supported by new direction in RPS Change 1 requiring regional and district plans to manage adverse effects of stormwater runoff. This is anticipated to become operative in the new year.</p> <p>Additional work to be done includes UHCC updating their district plan to support this.</p> |
| W67 | <p>Greater Wellington amends the relevant regulatory documents by 2023, while working with Mana Whenua and territorial authorities to co-design operational guidelines for undertaking flood works on small urban streams, including those on private property. These guidelines would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave room for the river, floodwater, and natural processes. • Establish native riparian vegetation, which also gives effect to the values in the NPS-FM 2020. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>The Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) includes a commitment to riparian planting in the Te Awa Kairangi River area where practicable, using native plants where possible. GW has developed a Code of Practice for river management activities, originally for the global consent application for Te Awa Kairangi and Wainuiomata and proposes to apply it more widely. The Code aligns with Whaitua recommendations and outlines principles for working alongside mana whenua.</p> |

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| | | | <p>The Proposed Regional Policy Statement includes amended Policy 52, which considers room for the river and mātauranga Māori options. The Hutt River FMP, developed about 20 years ago, is due for review, and K&I are working on a piece on prioritization of the remaining structural works under the FMP, but no changes have been made sense Whaitua recommendations were released.</p> <p>Additional context is provided by the Hutt River Corridor Management Plan and GW’s internal principles for floodplain management planning, which focus on avoiding development in high-risk areas, not building flood protection to enable new development, meeting design standards, and allowing for climate change.</p> |
| W68 | Greater Wellington, territorial authorities, Mana Whenua, and the relevant three waters agency develop plans (by 2030) for the managed retreat and adaptation of three waters infrastructure due to rising sea level. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Adaptation planning must be place-based to align efforts across sectors and avoid isolated decisions. It should coordinate catchment planning, asset renewals, and spatial planning. For example, water supply decisions must consider future development and existing communities exposed to climate or hazard risks. Regional councils, territorial authorities, mana whenua, and communities must plan jointly. The process should move beyond short-term thinking and create a shared space for negotiating long-term outcomes.</p> <p>Professors Bruce Glavovic and Huhana Smith are developing a “living agreement” to support place-based adaptation planning. This work is led by the Wellington Regional Leadership</p> |

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| | | | <p>Committee (WRLC), which brings together iwi, central government, and local government. A draft agreement is expected early next year.</p> <p>GWRC has published the Organizational Climate Risk Assessment (OCRA). Top risks include bulk water supply, public transport, and flood protection. An Organizational Adaptation Plan is in development to identify gaps in addressing these risks (led by Melanie Barthe). This plan focuses on organizational assets, unlike the regional work led by Professors Glavovic and Smith.</p> |
| W69 | Greater Wellington supports and incentivises landowners wanting to restore wetlands and removes barriers for best-practice restoration of the mauri of degraded wetlands. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>This is covered by relevant incentive programmes & Wetland programmes.</p> <p>Fees and charges for wetland restoration resource consents are waived to enable restoration activities.</p> |
| W70 | Greater Wellington increases the resourcing available to implement and enforce the NPS-FM 2020, National Environment Standards and PNRP provisions about wetland identification, protection, and restoration. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>Consents and implementation are fully in place with robust decisions on wetland issues. The team has upskilled on wetland provisions and provides appropriate advice. Effects Management Guidance has been produced to guide mitigation and offsetting of wetland effects.</p> |
| W71 | Greater Wellington supports positive relationships with wetland owners, including those with wetlands above the Parangārehu Lakes and at Mangaroa. It also provides assistance to protect and restore those wetlands. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>GW works with Rōpū Tiaki, a co-management group with Taranaki Whānui, to extend co-management of eastern parks and wetlands. Advisors are engaging with landowners around Parangārehu Lakes and Mangaroa wetlands.</p> |

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| W72 | Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua seek opportunities to develop and restore wetland habitat when managing and designing flood protection works and developing green spaces. | Partially Implemented | A Mana Whenua values document is attached to the RiverLink programme. Co-governance is in place with Mana Whenua partners, who sit on the board. Belmont Wetland was constructed as part of the programme. Maintenance responsibility rests with the territorial authorities, although this has been challenging. |
| W73 | Greater Wellington maps all natural wetlands in the whitua, as required by the NPS-FM 2020. This is to be completed by 2024, rather than the NPS-FM deadline of 2030. | Partially Implemented | Greater Wellington has mapped some natural inland wetlands and completed a desktop exercise to identify wet areas that need ground-truthing to confirm wetland status. A wetland mapping steering group has been established to address landowner privacy issues. |
| W74 | Greater Wellington addresses the issues raised in Te Mahere Wai on the recommendations about the Parangārehu Lakes area. | Partially implemented | No additional update. |
| W75 | Greater Wellington identifies all fish passage barriers on public land by 2025 and private land by 2030. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | GWRC is progressing this goal. Since the start of the project, the fish passage team has assessed 1,165 instream structures and remediated 293 barriers. The fish passage project team is funded by MFE until June 2026. KPIs include identifying barriers on public land. Work on private land is harder and involves door knocking and mapping key landowners. The team uses the NIWA citizen science tool. Funding beyond 2026 is uncertain. |
| W76 | Greater Wellington, together with Mana Whenua, community groups and territorial authorities, collaborates with owners of fish passage barriers to remediate the highest-risk sites by 2040 and all other sites as soon as practical, but no later than 2045. Catchments highly valued for their indigenous fish and | Partially Implemented: Delivery | The fish passage project engages actively with Mana Whenua, community groups, and territorial authorities to identify and remediate barriers across the Greater Wellington Region. Many high-risk sites are identified, and a prioritisation framework is in place that considers high-priority catchments and Mana |

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| | <p>mahinga kai species are prioritised and Greater Wellington reports publicly on the identification and remediation progress.</p> | | <p>Whenua values. Funding is mixed, and remediation costs vary. Prioritisation uses habitat quality and assessment tools. Collaboration with iwi and community groups is underway. Outreach with Taranaki Whānui has been limited. Some structures cannot be remediated.</p> |
| W77 | <p>Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua work with territorial authorities to identify (by 2025) and restore (by 2035) the spawning habitats of indigenous fish and mahinga kai species (e.g., inanga) in their rohe.</p> | <p>Partially Implemented: Delivery</p> | <p>Mountains to Sea Wellington hosts a webpage with educational material on restoring habitat and supporting Inanga spawning. Knowledge and Insights (K&I) is not regulatory. The MTSW whitebait connection programme has been delivered. The Community Environment Fund for the Hutt Valley was completed by the Community Capability and Change team.</p> <p>K&I supports Delivery with inanga spawning habitat surveys in the Hutt region as part of baseline monitoring for resource consents and the Code of Practice. K&I will include Gollan's Valley, which sits outside consent requirements. This work is not yet contracted. Most areas are expected to be contracted, except the Ōtaki River, where engagement with Ngā Hapū o Ōtaki is scoped. Work is scheduled to start between March and May 2026. Responsibility sits with K&I. Collaboration with iwi is planned. The action plan required by NPS-FM will link Whaitua deliverables, and prioritisation tools will guide the approach. The fish passage action plan does not directly relate to this point but is noted for future Whaitua alignment.</p> |
| W78 | <p>Mana Whenua and Greater Wellington work together and with input from relevant interested parties, including the three waters</p> | <p>Not implemented: Prerequisite needed</p> | <p>For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows.</p> |

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| | <p>agency, to design a new water allocation regulatory regime that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives effect to our understanding of Te Mana o te Wai. • Provides for Mana Whenua rights and interests, which may include a specific allocation for iwi. • Includes mātauranga Māori in its development and monitoring. | | |
| W79 | Greater Wellington investigates options for iwi allocation in the current regulatory regime. | Not implemented: Prerequisite needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |
| W80 | Mana Whenua and Greater Wellington work together to develop a framework of how Te Mana o te Wai (for water quantity) can be achieved and demonstrated. This includes agreeing on the process, measures, and indicators of success. | Not implemented: Prerequisite needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |
| W81 | Greater Wellington supports Mana Whenua to develop mahinga kai measures related to water quantity. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |
| W82 | Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua, and territorial authorities (including Porirua City Council) recognise, promote, and provide for the mana of the Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt, Wainuiomata and Ōrongorongo Rivers as awa tupuna for Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. They are treasured taonga and providers of wai ora and hauora (health and wellbeing) for the whole Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara community and Te Awarua-o-Porirua community. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>Through PC1 and the NRP we have updated the importance of these rivers. We assess this through our consenting processes. Te Wāhi (consent notification processes) has been updated to identify activities that may affect these rivers. Communication with partners on incidents and enforcement matters has increased.</p> <p>Aspects beyond these were not addressed in PC1 are for a future plan change. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows.</p> |

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| W83 | <p>Greater Wellington includes in the PNRP the following water allocation limits for the Te Awa Kairangi/ Hutt, Wainuiomata and Ōrongorongo Rivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the minimum flows over time to 80 per cent of MALF in 50 years' time: • The first minimum flow increase must be included in the upcoming plan changes to be notified by 2024 and will apply from the mid-2030s, or whatever date is most appropriate, to ensure that the new minimum flow applies when the bulk water consents to take surface water in the major water supply catchments are renewed • Future increases in minimum flow must be stepped out in line with the bulk water consent renewals. • We expect this pathway for increases in minimum flows to be revised as a result of further investigative work to understand the limits that would achieve Te Mana o te Wai, outlined in Recommendation 107. <p>Cap the amount of water available to be allocated through consents at the existing consented use.</p> | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |
| W84 | <p>Greater Wellington includes in the PNRP the following water allocation limits for all streams (outside the three major water supply catchments):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 per cent of MALF for the minimum flow | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 per cent of MALF for the allocation limit. | | |
| W85 | Greater Wellington retains the current settings that allow the reallocation of any water that becomes available within the allocation limit to be reallocated. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |
| W86 | Greater Wellington amends the PNRP and rule framework in Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara, so the region-wide permitted activity rule (R136) no longer applies to this whaitua. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when 'Plan Stop' and RM reform legislation allows. |
| W87 | Greater Wellington amends the PNRP through a plan change (by 2022) to ensure that all water takes requiring resource consent within Te Whanganui-a-Tara require metering. Electronic metering is required by 2027. | Fully Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Any water takes requiring a resource consent requires a meter as per PC1. However, we exercise discretion where the take is less than 5l/s. |
| W88 | Greater Wellington reviews all existing consents in catchments outside the major water supply catchments that have not expired within five years of the whaitua plan change, to ensure that any updated allocation limits are applied to consents. | Not implemented: Prerequisite needed | For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. |
| W89 | In collaboration with catchment communities, Greater Wellington develops a work programme designed for and with landowners (particularly for lifestyle block owners), to ensure they are aware of regulations on the use of water. | Not Implemented | Work is scoped in the policy transitional work programme to develop guidance on NRP rules 108 and 109 to support understanding of rural land irrigated with new water. Decisions on priority pieces of work in the transitional programme are expected by the end of the year. |
| W90 | Greater Wellington undertakes assessments (e.g., through rural engagement surveys and targeted catchment investigations) to understand any potential changes in the way people are taking unconsented water (section 14(3)(b) of the Resource Management Act about takes). | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update, |

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| W91 | <p>Greater Wellington increases its flow monitoring in small streams in catchments where land use is changing significantly, or there is thought to be a high potential for change (e.g., rural intensification). This is to establish whether any increase in water use is affecting flows and therefore values.</p> | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>The 2024 comment still applies. No new sites have been established. Regional priority is on new monitoring in catchments that are highly allocated and under pressure to inform the next plan change. Implementing this recommendation would require re-prioritisation. Some new flow monitoring is in the Mawaihakona Stream (Silverstream), but this is not in response to this recommendation.</p> |
| W92 | <p>Territorial authorities and the relevant three waters agency implement universal residential metering. to identify water wastage, reduce demand and enable more effective network management. To enable metering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial authorities will consult on how to fund water meters by 2025. • The relevant three waters agency will install water meters. <p>The whitua committee recognises that water metering enables a range of mechanisms for reducing demand. These include, for example: leak detection; information provision; the identification of potential excessive users for advice, support, and/or fines; and volumetric charging. Agreement could not be reached on whether volumetric charging should be introduced as a lever for reducing demand. However, if it is, it will be important to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water assets remain in public ownership. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>In 2024, Wellington Water completed a smart meter technical feasibility study (33KB PDF) on behalf of Greater Wellington Regional Council. The purpose of this study was to investigate how meters could help with improving our overall management of the wider network. Water meters</p> <p>All the Wellington metropolitan councils have responded to the need for water conservation and the increasing risk of future water shortages and restrictions, by including work to implement residential water meters in their 2024-34 Long-Term Plans.</p> <p>Wellington Water also has agreement on a joint working model with council officers and mana whenua partners to enable an integrated regional approach to the programme. Wellington Water is now progressing a business case on behalf of councils to understand the benefits and further explore the feasibility of implementing smart meters across the region.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People can access enough water to flourish. • Vulnerable communities are not disadvantaged. • Water is respected as the giver of life and does not become a commodity. • It prevents exploitation and excessive use by people who can afford it. | | |
| W93 | <p>The relevant three waters agency provides the community (by 2022) with information on and practical support for being more efficient with water. The information might cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological solutions (such as the different uses of rainwater tanks) » Water-saving tips • The natural water cycle and where our water comes from. <p>The support could be provided through partnerships with catchment groups, through the Mangai Wai Ora (kaitiaki) programme (see Recommendation 101), professional associations, and enterprises (e.g., a Sustainability Trust model).</p> | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update |
| W94 | <p>The relevant three waters agency develops a programme by 2023 that engages with commercial water users (and starts with identifying the top 100). The programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies how water is used. • Helps users to understand how their use compares to that of similar industries nationally and globally. • Supports businesses to improve water efficiency and/or lower their demand. | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update |
| W95 | <p>Greater Wellington and the relevant three waters agency investigate the current pricing for commercial water users (by 2023), to</p> | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update |

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| | determine if changes in pricing mechanisms could help improve their water-use efficiency and identify the possible economic implications. | | |
| W96 | Territorial authorities promote the use of rainwater tanks or alternative water-storage solutions for non-potable uses in new commercial and residential developments. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Partially supported by GW development of hydrological control guidance. |
| W97 | Greater Wellington, territorial authorities, and the relevant three waters agency incentivise (and support with educational material) the retrofitting of rainwater tanks to reduce demand and/or attenuate stormwater, prioritising suburbs that are prone to flooding due to capacity issues in the stormwater network. Territorial authorities provide a funding mechanism for willing property owners. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Supported by PC1 A decision to pause PC1 has meant that hearings have not been completed. The PC1 process may resume when there is greater certainty on the direction of the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (which may be post-Cabinet decisions and prior to gazettal). This is anticipated to be early next year. This method has not been scoped as part of the policy transitional work programme at this stage. |
| W98 | The relevant three waters agency ensures that 100 per cent of the public drinking-water network is assessed for leakage (by 2030) and a plan (publicly available with progress reporting) is developed to repair and replace assets in the Wellington drinking-water network so that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, the network will have an Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) of 4.5 or lower. • By 2040, the network will have an ILI of 3.5 or lower. • By 2050, an ILI target of 2 or less will have been achieved and an ongoing | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Wellington Water manages a 2,543 km drinkingwater pipe network, much of it 30–100 years old, which makes locating underground leaks challenging. A strong focus is on identifying the largest, hardest to see underground leaks—often those losing 40+ litres per minute. Because the number of leaks exceeds available resourcing, crews prioritise the biggest and highest impact leaks first, while smaller leaks may wait longer for repair. Increased council funding since early 2024 has enabled intensified leak repair efforts, contributing to a reduction in estimated annual water loss. -water pipe |

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| | cycle of maintenance will be in place to ensure this continues. | | network, much of it 30–100 years old, which makes locating underground leaks challenging. -to-see underground leaks—often those losing 40+ litres per minute. Because the number of leaks exceeds available resourcing, crews prioritise the biggest and highest-impact leaks first, while smaller leaks may wait longer for repair. Increased council funding since early 2024 has enabled intensified leak-repair efforts, contributing to a reduction in estimated annual water loss. |
| W99 | The relevant three waters agency investigates additional water storage and harvesting water at high flows as soon as possible to ensure continued security of supply for municipal use. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Wellington Water and GWRC are progressing plans for new storage lakes at Pakuratahi, Upper Hutt with connections to existing infrastructure. |
| W100 | <p>The relevant three waters agency engages with the community and Mana Whenua (by 2023) on implementing community-scale, urban-water recycling for uses such as firefighting, the irrigation of parks and industrial/commercial applications. Initiatives to be considered should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting and storing community stormwater in public spaces for non-potable purposes • Using the continuous supply of treated wastewater for non-potable purposes. • Continued public education and long-term three waters strategies should also encourage a greater use of recycled urban water, and evaluate where existing networks can be optimised, replaced, or retrofitted to make greater use of recycled water | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | This work sits with Wellington Water. |

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| W101 | <p>Greater Wellington provides resourcing for a Mangai Wai Ora (kaitiaki) programme (as outlined in Te Mahere Wai), to be developed and led by Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa, alongside relevant industry bodies to train a workforce of kaitiaki to support the ongoing delivery of work on freshwater projects in the whitua. Greater Wellington provides resourcing for a Mangai Wai Ora (kaitiaki) programme (as outlined in Te Mahere Wai), to be developed and led by Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa, alongside relevant industry bodies to train a workforce of kaitiaki to support the ongoing delivery of work on freshwater projects in the whitua.</p> <p>The scope of the role could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater and coastal monitoring using a range of scientific information, including mātauranga Māori, citizen science, and community knowledge to inform the current state of water and the environment. • Leadership in freshwater policy and plan development • Providing for cultural relationships with freshwater and coastal environments • Monitoring of mahinga kai and Māori customary use • Checking wastewater and stormwater infrastructure on private and public land, in support of three waters agency roving crews • Providing advice and support for industries on their potential impacts | Not implemented: Scoping needed | There are elements being progressed in some collaborations and joint projects with mana whenua. However, specific scoping of this initiative has not started. |
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| | <p>on water quality and mitigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting education on local streams, water quality, and water usage in schools and the community • Clearing waterways of rubbish, riparian planting, and reporting pollution. | | |
| W102 | <p>Mana Whenua, Greater Wellington, and territorial authorities engage with relevant Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) to identify how the WDCs can best contribute, through their leadership roles in vocational education and training, to growing the workforce needed to take care of water.</p> | Unknown Status: Awaiting update | No additional update |
| W103 | <p>Greater Wellington and territorial authorities continue to advocate and petition central government for news to restrict the supply of water for water-bottling activities.</p> | Partially Implemented: planning | <p>In 2019, Daran Ponter as Chair of GW, advocated to Central Government to address challenges in water take consenting in regard to water bottling activities. Greater Wellington — Greater Wellington urges government to do more on water bottling</p> |
| W104 | <p>Greater Wellington advocates to central government in 2022 for the Emissions Trading Scheme to include the protection and restoration of natural wetlands, whether or not they are currently functioning wetlands.</p> | Partially Implemented: planning | <p>No additional update to 2024 comment on Greater Wellington’s submission on the Emissions Reduction Plan review.</p> |
| W105 | <p>By 2022, Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua, and territorial authorities (through the regional stormwater forum – see Recommendation 56) will advocate to central government to introduce with urgency rules that will phase out copper brake pads in vehicles by 2030 or earlier.</p> | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>No additional update to advocate to central government.</p> |
| W106 | <p>Greater Wellington partners with Mana Whenua to use mātauranga Māori in</p> | Partially Implemented: planning | <p>There are elements being progressed in some collaborations and joint projects with mana</p> |

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| | developing an understanding of water quality and quantity within the whitua (e.g., our understanding of springs, aquifers and wetlands, and stream water-quality monitoring). | | whenua. However, specific scoping of this initiative has not started. |
| W107 | <p>Greater Wellington partners with Mana Whenua to develop a comprehensive approach to understanding, managing, and allowing for mahinga kai values throughout the whitua. This should build on existing work by Mana Whenua and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing attributes for understanding whether the values are being provided for with Mana Whenua • Designing and implementing a comprehensive monitoring programme to provide information on current state and trends • Developing targets for mahinga kai throughout the whitua • Determining any management methods beyond those already recommended in this WIP that are required to achieve the targets | Not implemented: Scoping needed | There are elements being progressed in some collaborations and joint projects with mana whenua. However, specific scoping of this initiative has not started. |
| W108 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua and communities to develop measures for community participation in and connection to their water bodies – and in doing so build on the kaupapa framework, Te Oranga Wai, being developed by Mana Whenua (as outlined in Te Mahere Wai). ‘Community connection’ is important beyond narrow in-stream measures of environmental outcomes. It spans participation, mental health, spiritual connection, identity, sense of place, story and culture, and physical health needs. | Not implemented: Prerequisite needed | There are elements being progressed in some collaborations and joint projects with mana whenua. However, specific scoping of this initiative has not started. |

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| W109 | <p>Greater Wellington, Mana Whenua, and the relevant three waters agency undertake, or continue to undertake, investigations to determine the changes in minimum water flows and allocation required to meet the long-term whaitua vision and Te Mana o te Wai. Investigations are to begin by 2022 and to be completed by 2027. These investigations should lead to a package of actions and a timetable for implementation. Their scope should be defined in detail and include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising catchments based on information requirements, values, and pressures, which includes any catchment focal points for small stream investigations beyond the main water supply catchments. • Mātauranga Māori and quantifying water flows to support Mana Whenua values and outcomes for catchments of interest. • Testing alternative minimum water flow and allocation regimes alongside a range of municipal water supply infrastructure options • Facilitating the implementation of any new allocation regime and detailed assessments of its implications for municipal water supply infrastructure • Assessments of the implications of climate change on stream flows • Ecosystem function modelling • A review and revision of the Waiwhetū aquifer’s management. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>For future plan change. Not addressed in PC1. Future changes will proceed when ‘Plan Stop’ and RM reform legislation allows.</p> <p>Some related studies to support this work in the future are currently underway. For example, planning is underway for an exploratory study of flow regime and ecosystem health in the Mawaihakona Stream, prioritised due to high allocation levels and strong community restoration efforts.</p> <p>Wellington Water is beginning a long-term project to investigate alternative allocation regimes to improve flexibility and environmental outcomes. GW will engage with WWL on this work, with an initial scoping meeting scheduled for early December.</p> <p>These matters were not addressed in PC1 and will be considered in a future plan change. The plan change process is paused pending resource management reform. A desktop prioritisation of allocation pressure has been completed but did not involve other parties such as WWL or mana whenua.</p> <p>Planning is underway for an exploratory study of flow regime and ecosystem health in the Mawaihakona Stream, prioritised due to high allocation levels and strong community restoration efforts.</p> <p>No significant progress has been made on related recommendations. Some baseline data collection has started in the Ōrongorongo</p> |
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| | | | <p>River, providing partial implementation, but there has been no partnering with other parties. Exploratory discussions on alternative aquifer pumping regimes are planned with WWL. Revised climate modelling is available, but there is no specific plan to respond to this recommendation.</p> <p>WWL has updated the main aquifer model (HAM5), and additional monitoring of aquifer and river flows is underway to refine the model.</p> <p>Wellington Water is beginning a long-term project to investigate alternative allocation regimes to improve flexibility and environmental outcomes. GW will engage with WWL on this work, with an initial scoping meeting scheduled for early December.</p> |
| W110 | <p>Greater Wellington supports and invests in research (to begin by 2023) to better understand our aquifers. This includes investigations of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hydrogeology of aquifers (such as groundwater sources and flow paths, and water availability) • Indicators of aquifer ecosystem health, such as stygofauna • Stressors on aquifer ecosystem health, such as contamination from E. coli and land uses • Risks to the sources of human drinking water, including from emerging contaminants. <p>To support this research, Greater Wellington develops a monitoring network for aquifer ecosystem health by 2023.</p> | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>In February, GW worked with ESR to survey stygofauna and groundwater ecosystems in the Hutt Valley, relating to WIP recommendation 110. The survey recovered 63 stygofauna specimens from 11 bores, including high diversity at the Hutt Recreation Grounds, and revealed diverse microbial communities. ESR provided a technical report, which GW plans to publish with supporting communications. A second sampling round is scheduled for March 2026, co-funded by GW and PHF Science. Findings provide baseline insights but do not yet indicate aquifer or ecosystem health.</p> <p>ESR's wider research project, co-funded by Central Government, aims to improve understanding of groundwater ecosystems.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Early results show species with varied tolerance to water quality and roles in sediment mobility. Mana whenua involvement needs strengthening. GW also commissioned a study on saline intrusion risks to the Waiwhetū aquifer, building on HAM5 modelling. Additional aquifer and river flow monitoring is underway to refine HAM5. Wellington Water is starting a long-term project to explore alternative allocation regimes, with GW engaged in early scoping discussions.</p> <p>GW maintains an SOE monitoring network in the Hutt Valley, which routinely monitors groundwater chemistry and E. coli.</p> |
| W111 | <p>Greater Wellington initiates (by 2025) and conducts more investigations into the nutrient sources of Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River, to help in developing the actions needed in future to manage toxic algae. These investigations may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen coming from tributaries and groundwater in the Pākuratahi and Mangaroa River catchments. • Nitrogen entering the shallow, unconfined Upper Hutt aquifer. • The contribution of sediment-bound phosphorus • Identifying the sources of fine sediment and its role in toxic algal bloom formation. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>No additional update. Not currently planned.</p> <p>There is no update for 2025. This work was not included in the annual work planning process. The focus has been on Wairarapa Moana and delivering the overall monitoring programme for Recommendation WQ.</p> |

Te Mahere Wai

| Recommendation ID | Recommendation Description | 2025 Implementation Progress | 2025 Comment(s) |
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| M1 | <p>The rights and interests of Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira in freshwater are acknowledged by Greater Wellington.</p> | <p>Not implemented: Prerequisite needed</p> | <p>Implementing this recommendation would require additional legislative clarity and outcomes of current litigation.</p> <p>Meaningful aspects of this recommendation could potentially be advanced in a future plan change on water use and allocation. This can only proceed after Govt. 'Plan Stop' and RMA reform legislation allows.</p> |
| M2 | <p>Mana Whenua are resourced to help complete the National Objectives Framework (NOF) process set out in section 3.7 of the NPSFM 2020 for Te Whanganui-a-Tara that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulating additional attributes for Mana Whenua values, • Identifying baseline states for attributes, • Setting additional target attribute states for the different Wāhi Wai Māori Freshwater Management Units (FMUs), • Setting environmental flows, levels and limits for the major rivers, small streams, and aquifers, • Articulating limits, management methods and mātauranga Māori monitoring measures, • Agreeing a new quantum for permitted water takes, • Addressing non-municipal water supply, and • Completing the Te Oranga Wai attributes for freshwater and coastal receiving environments for inclusion in the | <p>Partially Implemented: Paused</p> | <p>Some attributes, including zinc and copper, were added during the PC1 process to meet NPS-FM requirements. Mana Whenua had some involvement in completing the NOF framework within PC1.</p> <p>Articulating additional attributes for Mana Whenua values must be satisfied first. There is no current funded work for this.</p> |

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| | Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) as part of the 2022 and 2024 plan changes. | | |
| M3 | Identify and restore wai ora in all freshwater and coastal receiving environments in Te Whanganui-a-Tara by 2071. | Partially Implemented: Planning. | Partially implemented with notification of NRP PC1 on 30 October 2023 which sets targets for improvement and methods for continuous improvement. NRP Objective WH.01 defines Wai Ora state in Te Whanganui-a-Tara and sets an objective to achieve this by 2100. Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of actions in Te Mahere Wai. |
| M4 | Develop a wai ora measure that identifies the baseline state of wai ora from the mātāpuna (headwaters) through to takutai moana (the sea). | Partially Implemented: Planning. | The NOF framework partially supports this recommendation and guides data collection through our environmental information network. NRP Objective WH.01 defines Wai Ora state in Te Whanganui-a-Tara and sets an objective to achieve this by 2100. Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of actions in Te Mahere including further development of the Te Oranga Wai framework. |
| M5 | Mana Whenua are resourced to develop and implement a measurement framework for mahinga kai as a compulsory value in the NPSFM 2020 by 2025. The framework will be central to Greater Wellington monitoring and will provide ongoing mahinga kai measurement for both water quality and quantity across eight spatial areas identified in Te Mahere Wai. The measurement framework will identify baseline states, attributes, and target states for: taonga species, mahinga kai areas, and mahinga kai activities. | Partially Implemented: Planning. | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of actions in Te Mahere Wai, including for mahinga kai. |

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| M6 | Develop a whitua-scale (catchment-scale) Mana Whenua monitoring and reporting framework for mahinga kai. | Partially Implemented: Planning. | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of actions in Te Mahere Wai, including for mahinga kai. |
| M7 | The mainstream Whitua Implementation Programme relies on Te Mahere Wai and ongoing Mana Whenua implementation to provide the assessment of compulsory mahinga kai values required in the NPSFM 2020. It is recommended that Greater Wellington implement all mahinga kai recommendations to give effect to national policy directives. | Partially Implemented: Planning. | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of actions in Te Mahere Wai, including for mahinga kai. |
| M8 | Te Korokoro o te Mana (Korokoro Stream), Te Manga o Kaiwharawhara (including Te Māhanga and Korimako Streams) and Wainuiomata are prioritised for protection and restoration. | Partially Implemented: Planning | PC1 supports this recommendation. Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of catchments including Te Korokoro o te Mana (Korokoro Stream), Te Manga o Kaiwharawhara (including Te Māhanga and Korimako Streams) and Wainuiomata. |
| M9 | The Korokoro and Kaiwharawhara Streams, and the entire length of the Wainuiomata Awa are designated as outstanding waterbodies in Schedule A: Outstanding Water Bodies of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP). | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. |
| M10 | Te Awa Kairangi, Akatārawa, Pākuratahi, Whakatikei, Wainuiomata, Te Awa o Ōrongorongo and the Parangārehu Lakes are classified as areas that have outstanding natural character in the PNRP. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | For future plan change. |
| M11 | The Korokoro and Kaiwharawhara Streams and the entire length of the Wainuiomata Awa, are taonga and should be protected and restored by conferring a legal personhood on each. | Unknown Status: Responsibility undefined | Taranaki Whānui are leading a project looking at avenues for creating legal personhood for the Kaiwharawhara awa outside of Government Treaty Settlement Bills. |
| M12 | Greater Wellington work in partnership with Mana Whenua, Lower Hutt City Council, KiwiRail and Waka Kotahi to reinstate mai uta ki tai (from the | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update |

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| | inland to sea) pedestrian access between Honiana Te Puni reserve and Korokoro Stream. | | |
| M13 | Mana Whenua are resourced to implement Te Mahere Wai and are active and have an integral presence as Ngā Mangai Waiora (ambassadors for water) in whatua monitoring and management of their freshwater taonga. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua includes implementation of Te Mahere Wai and have a range of roles in leadership such as through Rōpū Tiaki |
| M14 | Greater Wellington enters into a partnered management agreement with Mana Whenua so that they are actively involved in all freshwater management decision-making processes in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. This includes giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai at a local level and developing, monitoring, and implementing the Whatua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Whatua Implementation Programme (WIP). | Partially Implemented: Planning | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua includes implementation of Te Mahere Wai and have a range of roles in leadership such as through Rōpū Tiaki |
| M15 | Greater Wellington resources iwi management plans and joint management agreements under section 36B of the RMA where appropriate. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Policy knowledge exchange is actively supporting the development of the Ngāti Toa Rangatira IEMP. This includes sharing planning approaches and aligning policy frameworks to strengthen the IEMP process. |
| M16 | Greater Wellington delegates its powers under section 33 of the RMA to Mana Whenua (where agreed) to make decisions around freshwater management that includes (but is not limited to) monitoring of awa, and enforcement of resource consent conditions. | Not implemented: Prerequisite needed | No additional update to 2024 |
| M17 | Greater Wellington establishes a permanent Mana Whenua decision-making rōpū (group) to help develop and implement the Whatua Implementation Programme and Te Mahere Wai. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua is progressing the prioritisation of Te Mahere Wai. |
| M18 | Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua agree the rating resource to be allocated and managed by Mana Whenua for the management of Ngā Awa Tupua within Te Whanganui-a-Tara. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update to 2024 |

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| M19 | Greater Wellington supports the establishment of, and provides operational funding for, a Mana Whenua kaitiaki monitoring and management programme like Ngā Mangai Waioira (ambassadors for water). | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua has supported the establishment of kaitiaki roles. |
| M20 | Greater Wellington will support the implementation of Te Mahere Wai and the Whaitua Implementation Programme through the establishment of mātauranga Māori expertise within the organisation. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Greater Wellington has hired mātauranga Māori expertise into the organisation. |
| M21 | Mana Whenua are resourced to undertake a review of traditional Māori-names across Te Whanganui-a-Tara water bodies in order to promote their correct usage and retention and, where possible, restore traditional names that have been lost. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | A contractor has been hired by GWRC to deliver key actions that support this recommendation. |
| M22 | Activities affecting water quality will ensure that the water quality standards set in the PNRP, or the A band attribute state in the NPSFM 2020, whatever is more stringent, are achieved. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | <p>The CSView consenting management tool is in development and will provide real-time consenting information to field staff during their activities. This recommendation is addressed in PC1, which was notified on 30 October 2023. PC1 manages activities to achieve the 2040 target attribute states set in the Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara WIP.</p> <p>The decision to pause PC1 has stopped hearings. The process will resume when there is certainty on the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Cabinet decisions are expected early next year before gazettal.</p> |
| M23 | Greater Wellington will prioritise removing the discharge of human effluent and waste to freshwater and coastal waterbodies. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Targets in PC1 support this recommendation. The decision to pause PC1 has stopped hearings. The process will resume when there is certainty on the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. |

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| | | | Cabinet decisions are expected early next year before gazettal. |
| M24 | All waterbodies and wetlands in Te Whanganui-a-Tara have planted riparian margins. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>Incentives exist for fencing and planting, but urban areas are managed by territorial authorities. The Wetland Programme and Riparian Programme support this work. The Parks team conducts riparian planting on GWRC-owned land. Toitū Te Whenua sets policy on outcomes and specifics. PC1, notified on 30 October 2023, supports this recommendation and includes a requirement for Freshwater Action Plans in Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Where applicable, these plans will include the planning and delivery of a riparian restoration programme.</p> <p>The decision to pause PC1 has stopped hearings. The process will resume when there is certainty on the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Cabinet decisions are expected early next year before gazettal.</p> <p>Floodplain Management Plans contain non-statutory policy on riparian planting. Planting occurs where structural measures are not required. Where flood protection schemes exist, riparian planting is included. The FMP commits to riparian planting in the Te Awa Kairangi River area where practicable.</p> |
| M25 | The steep rural land within the Southwest Coast Wāhi Wai Māori (FMU) is retired to allow native forest regeneration. | Partially Implemented: Paused | Land retirement is encouraged through funding incentives, with priority given to erosion-prone areas. |

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| | | | PC1, which supports this recommendation, has been paused. Hearings have not been completed. The process will resume when there is certainty on the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Cabinet decisions are expected early next year before gazettal. |
| M26 | There are no discharges (point source or non-point source) that impact on water quality standards that are set. | Partially Implemented: Paused | <p>PC1 is intended to address this recommendation. Some consents are in place, and some compliance monitoring is undertaken.</p> <p>Key consents are still missing for certain discharges, including dry-weather discharges. Proposed wastewater environmental standards will make this difficult to achieve because they apply end-of-pipe standards, which do not assess receiving water quality.</p> <p>PC1 has been paused, and hearings have not been completed. The process will resume when there is certainty on the amended National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Cabinet decisions are expected early next year before gazettal.</p> |
| M27 | Greater Wellington along with partners, including Mana Whenua and district councils, develop a plan to remove all direct wastewater discharges to freshwater within a generation (20 years). | Partially Implemented: Paused | PC1 helps in this area. Given effect indirectly through ongoing BAU and policy changes. |
| M28 | <p>Greater Wellington immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews all consented direct point discharges to freshwater, particularly the Silverstream discharge to Te Awa Kairangi, and discharges to the Karori and Waiwhetū Streams, | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>Resource consent applications have been lodged for wet-weather wastewater overflows.</p> <p>It could form part of the implementation of Method M43 in PC1, which is currently being</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review all non-consented direct point discharges that includes monitoring and remediation. | | scoped through the transitional work programme. |
| M29 | Kaiwharawhara, Korokoro, Wainuiomata and Black Creek are prioritised for an audit of cross connections. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | <p>Wellington Water undertakes regular targeted investigations to reduce inflow and infiltration into the wastewater network or leaks from the network. This includes flow monitoring, smoke and dye testing, CCTV inspections, and property checks to identify illegal wastewater/stormwater connections and leaky pipes. Faults found during inspections are either triaged for repair by Wellington Water (if on the public network) or referred to property owners for correction (for private laterals).</p> <p>Renewal works such as pipe lining, bursting and thrusting, and patch repairs have been carried out across the region to reduce groundwater infiltration and stormwater inflow.</p> <p>The “Knowing Your Pipes” programme smoke-tested 217 properties, dye-tested 213, and CCTV-inspected 211 laterals (over 6.3 km) in the Hutt Valley since 2022. Public network repairs included manhole fixes and root cutting. Follow-up sampling showed significant drops in E. coli after repairs.</p> |
| M30 | Sanitation systems like septic tanks are audited for a number of parameters including system design, age, structural integrity, soil type, and maintenance issues. | Partially Implemented: Planning | <p>Systems that require resource consent are reviewed when the next consent application is lodged.</p> <p>This is not part of Environment Group Policy at this stage. It could form part of the implementation of Method M44 in PC1, which is currently being scoped through the</p> |

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| | | | transitional work programme. There is an open question about whether this should be prioritised. |
| M31 | Septic tanks are required to undergo a warrant of fitness (WOF) check where an onsite servicing specialist undertakes a regular WOF service and performance check. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | This could form part of the implementation of Method M44 in PC1, which is currently being scoped through the transitional work programme. |
| M32 | Stormwater is captured and treated and, where possible, utilised as a resource. Where released to streams, it is released in a manner aligned with natural flow regimes. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Supported by PC1 but responsibility is primarily with Wellington Water supported by District Plan rules and funding. |
| M33 | Greater Wellington along with partners, including Mana Whenua and district councils works to remove all untreated wastewater discharges to takutai moana (the sea), within a generation (20 years). | Partially Implemented: Planning | PC1 supports this recommendation. Proposed National Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards may significantly limit our ability to influence this outcome because they apply end-of-pipe standards rather than assessing receiving water quality. |
| M34 | Greater Wellington will immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the impacts of wastewater discharges on public health, Identify the impacts of wastewater discharges on mahinga kai, customary use, and Mana Whenua sites of significance through viral and faecal coliforms flesh testing of taonga species, and Resource science and mātauranga Māori capacity and capability to ensure that coastal discharges are monitored by Mana Whenua, managed, and remediated. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | Multi agency response required. |
| M35 | Greater Wellington develops a wastewater management innovation programme that includes incentivising alternate waste disposal, such as: | Not implemented: Scoping needed | Multi agency response required. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing incentivised compost toilet programmes including rates rebate for those who disconnect their black water, Decoupling trade waste from domestic waste that includes onsite trade waste management innovation programmes; reviews and enhances pre-treatment requirements for trade waste and stormwater from industrial/commercial sites; and penalises non-compliance. | | |
| M36 | Water takes are managed in a way that allows all rivers and streams to be healthy and flourishing. Natural flow variability is protected, long periods of low flow are avoided, and the natural movement of water and sediment through the awa is maintained. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>This recommendation has not yet been implemented. More compliance and monitoring work is being undertaken in this space.</p> <p>It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. Progress is paused due to the plan pause and upcoming resource management reform.</p> |
| M37 | Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua establish a decision-making framework for identifying environmental flows and levels, cultural flows, and flow variability for all water bodies in Te Whanganui-a-Tara by 2024. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>This recommendation has not yet been implemented. More compliance and monitoring work is being undertaken in this space.</p> <p>It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. Progress is paused due to the plan pause and upcoming resource management reform.</p> |
| M38 | Cultural flows must be accounted for, before setting allocation limits. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | <p>This recommendation has not yet been implemented. More compliance and monitoring work is being undertaken in this space.</p> <p>It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. Progress is</p> |

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| | | | paused due to the plan pause and upcoming resource management reform. |
| M39 | <p>Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua are resourced to monitor and collect data that will inform water allocation and the setting of limits to achieve Te Mana o te Wai for every waterbody in Te Whanganui-a-Tara by 2024. The limits must be expressed as rules in the PNRP and will need to provide for environmental flows, levels and variability of flows and must clearly articulate:</p> <p>The amount of water that can be taken,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of flow variability, • How to safeguard ecosystem health from extended low flows, • Life cycle needs, particularly for native diadromous fish species and their need for connectivity between the sea and land (and riverbed to banks when spawning during high-flow events), • Total volume and total rate, and • Cease and restrict limits. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | This recommendation has not yet been implemented. More compliance and monitoring work is being undertaken in this space. |
| M40 | The limits for all streams outside the major water supply catchments are apportioned 100% Mean Annual Low Flow (MALF) for the minimum flow and 30% of MALF for the allocation amount. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |
| M41 | The new minimum flow of 100% of MALF is to be implemented for small streams in the upcoming regional plan change and applied when existing consents are reviewed or new applications are received. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |
| M42 | Water quantity management must achieve 90% of MALF across all main-stem waterbodies by 2071. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |
| M43 | The minimum flow levels for Te Awa Kairangi are lifted to achieve 80% of MALF by 2050. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |

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| M44 | All existing water take consents are reviewed to ensure the new limits are applied to existing consents. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |
| M45 | Place minimum flow limits on the 25 or so consented takes in Te Awa Kairangi that have no minimum flow and monitor and meter each. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |
| M46 | All water takes in the region are metered, including takes below 5 litres per second. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | All water takes requiring a resource consent require a meter as per PC1. However, we exercise discretion where the take is less than 5l/s. |
| M47 | All consented takes have electronic meters by 2027. | Fully Implemented: By Regulatory Change | All water takes requiring a resource consent require a meter as per PC1. However, we exercise discretion where the take is less than 5l/s. |
| M48 | The permitted take rule in the PNRP is removed so that takes above those allowed in section 14(3)(b) of the RMA will require resource consent. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Not addressed in PC1. May be addressed in future plan change (Plan stop and RM reform pending) |
| M49 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to clarify the meaning of “reasonable domestic use” and “stock drinking water” takes outlined in the RMA. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update |
| M50 | All small streams are monitored for flow. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | There are 54 flow monitoring stations operating across the region. This gives a representative understanding of the condition of many stream types and sizes. |
| M51 | Te Awa Kairangi, Ōrongorongo and Wainuiomata are publicly acknowledged for supplying all the potable water utilised by the communities of Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua. This is 12% of all water taken from these rivers. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | This information is publicly available on Greater Wellington’s website: Hutt and Wainuiomata-Ōrongorongo Water Collection Areas. The acknowledgement that 12% of water is taken is not included. Confirmation is required from the Water Services Provider on the amount taken. Once confirmed, this figure can be added to the website, as well as additional comment about the mana of those awa. |

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| M52 | A new water allocation model will include a specific iwi allocation. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M53 | There is a rāhui (moratorium) on all future water takes, reducing the limit to existing consented amounts. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M54 | The transfer of water consents and takes is prohibited. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M55 | A “sinking lid” approach is applied to clawback allocation, where lapsed consents have their apportioned take returned to the awa or iwi as a right of first refusal. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M56 | Greater Wellington provides resourcing to strengthen compliance and enforcement of water takes, particularly those from or adjoining small streams. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Refer to the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Policy. We are meeting the requirements of the updated policy. Strengthening further will require future plan change. |
| M57 | Domestic water supply is prioritised over commercial use as articulated in the NPSFM 2020 hierarchy of obligations. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M58 | Commercial users must explore ways to use water more efficiently to reduce their water take. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M59 | Commercial takes reduce and cease during times of low flow. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | It is not addressed in PC1 and may be considered in a future plan change. |
| M60 | A partnered management approach is adopted so that Mana Whenua have a meaningful role in developing, applying, monitoring, and enforcing best practice holistic care for rivers. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Greater Wellington partnership with mana whenua includes decision-making on waterways through consents and other mechanisms. |
| M61 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to review the design channel, buffer zones, and optimum bed levels in the relevant floodplain management plans for Te Awa Kairangi and Wainuiomata Awa. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | Review of the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi is not currently programmed. Development of an FMP for Wainuiomata is also not programmed. FMPs need to be reviewed to implement this recommendation. |
| M62 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to incorporate managed retreat and positive engineering options into the floodplain | Partially Implemented: Planning | The Regional Policy Statement and the regional 10-point Climate Emergency Action Plan commit GWRC to supporting adaptation |

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| | management plans for Te Awa Kairangi and Wainuiomata Awa. | | planning across the region. The Floodplain Management Plan for Te Awa Kairangi ensures space is left for the river and incorporates managed retreat through this process. GWRC supports territorial authorities in developing coastal adaptation and sea-level rise plans. Review of the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Hutt River / Te Awa Kairangi is not currently programmed. This recommendation does not specifically mention the Waiwhetū Stream where work is underway to discuss these points. |
| M63 | Greater Wellington resources managed-retreat expertise in each level of decision-making. | Partially Implemented: Planning | The Regional Policy Statement and the regional 10-point Climate Emergency Action Plan commit GWRC to supporting adaptation planning across the region. The Floodplain Management Plan for Te Awa Kairangi ensures space is left for the river and incorporates managed retreat through this process. GWRC supports territorial authorities in developing coastal adaptation and sea-level rise plans. |
| M64 | The existing global flood protection consent is reviewed so that it gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai, by putting the needs of the river first. | Partially Implemented: Planning | The development and implementation of the Code of Practice, along with the drive for continuous improvement in minimising environmental effects from flood protection works, aligns strongly with this objective. |
| M65 | Small streams are the “forgotten streams” in rural and urban areas that are extensive, steep, and very vulnerable to stock. Under the existing regime, they are unmanaged and this is an anomaly. Because the streams are small, they are vulnerable to access by cattle and horses even at low stocking rates. The topography means that they are not required to be fenced because of the steep slope. We recommend stock exclusion is | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | PC1 supports this recommendation through stock exclusion rules. |

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| | addressed through the farm plan process on a case-by-case basis. | | |
| M66 | <p>Greater Wellington will work with Mana Whenua to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude cattle and horses through farm plan processes, • Establish environmental flows and limits for āku waiheke (small streams), • Determine the health of mahinga kai species, • Investigate unconsented takes, and • Require resource consents for any new domestic take where the impact cannot be assessed. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Stock exclusion is supported by funding incentives. Plan Change 1 (PC1) partially addresses this for cattle only. Current work focuses on population health, including numbers, size distribution, and widespread disease if it occurs. It does not address the health of individual species for mahinga kai. |
| M67 | Marginal land on the southwest coast is retired to protect āku waiheke and te mātāpuna and the receiving coastal environment. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Land retirement is encouraged through funding incentives and is supported by Plan Change 1 (PC1). |
| M68 | Cattle are excluded from all small stream catchments in the southwest coast within five years. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Stock exclusion is supported by funding incentives. Plan Change 1 (PC1) addresses this for cattle in some areas. |
| M69 | Farming cattle in vulnerable catchments is not a permitted activity in the PNRP. | Partially Implemented: By Regulatory Change | Environmental Restoration provides advice on matching stock type to land suitability and often recommends reducing or removing cattle from high-risk land. Any change to the permitted activity status of farming must be addressed through a plan change process. Plan Change 1 (PC1) partially supports this. |
| M70 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to name all āku waiheke and ngā wai huna (concealed waters) that are not named, or have anglicised names, with traditional Māori names. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | A contractor has been hired by GWRC to deliver key actions that support this recommendation. |

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| M71 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to identify and map āku waiheke and ngā wai huna. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | A contractor has been hired by GWRC to deliver key actions that support this recommendation. |
| M72 | Greater Wellington works with Mana Whenua to daylight ngā wai huna where appropriate. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update |
| M73 | The ecological and cultural values of ngā wai huna (concealed waters) are given the same level of protection as natural streams and waterways. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update |
| M74 | Culverts, weirs, and dams must allow for native fish migration, but block trout and pest fish access to uninvaded areas. | Won't Implement: Not feasible | New culverts, weirs, and dams are legally required to allow native fish migration. These structures cannot fully block fish. Trout are protected under the RMA. |
| M75 | Te mātāpuna are revered, protected, and restored as the ultimate sources of mauri/mouri for freshwater. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | A contractor has been hired by GWRC to deliver key actions that support this recommendation. |
| M76 | All plantation forestry near te mātāpuna must have harvest plans in place by 2026 that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are approved by Mana Whenua, • Include Mana Whenua values and environmental outcomes in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, • Meet best practice management requirements, including the use of riparian buffers, • Prohibit the use of ecotoxic chemicals to poison vegetation, • Prohibit blanket spraying of vegetation, • Incorporate promote and incentivise selective felling, • Promote the regeneration of native vegetation in the headwaters, and • Are monitored regularly for compliance by Mana Whenua and Greater Wellington. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Harvest plans must be in place 60 to 20 working days before works commence under permitted conditions of the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES), or 2 working days for salvage operations. Plans are also required for consented activities. Because the timing of such activities is unknown, there are no current legal requirements to have harvest plans in place by 2026. When harvest plans are required, they must include information set out in Schedule 6 of the NES. Not all items listed in the recommendation are required by the NES. Implementing these would require legislative change through an update to the NES or the Natural Resources Plan (NRP). |

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| | | | <p>The NRP includes rules relevant to chemicals and spraying but does not provide for incentivising selective felling.</p> <p>Plan Change 1 (PC1) includes a requirement for a Plantation Forestry and Erosion and Sediment Management Plan. These plans do not require approval by mana whenua and do not include mana whenua values or environmental outcomes. Sediment discharges must be minimised, which will contribute to achieving environmental outcomes. The plans include requirements to meet best practice.</p> |
| M77 | This includes all Greater Wellington land that is currently in use for plantation forestry. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>Greater Wellington (GW) holds land where commercial forestry activities occur and must comply with relevant legislation. The delivery team notes that GW has granted Forest Rights to China Forestry Group (CFG), which holds a contract with GW for these rights. The contract may include items listed in recommendation M76, but the delivery team does not monitor compliance with this contract. Their role is limited to monitoring compliance with the Resource Management Act (RMA) and the National Environmental Standards (NES).</p> <p>For M76, the delivery team can only monitor requirements under the NES. Not all items in M76 apply, and the team cannot mandate the recommendation. However, the contract with CFG may include these provisions.</p> |
| M78 | There is no harvesting of the existing pine plantation forestry in the Korokoro Wāhi Wai Māori (FMU). | Not implemented: Scoping needed | At present, there is no active harvesting in the Korokoro FMU. Forestry is privately managed and is a permitted activity. |

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| M79 | Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua work together to monitor the ecological function of Te Awa Kairangi aquifers using mātauranga Māori knowledge, and the monitoring of stygofauna. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | ESR is leading a stygofauna research project co-funded by Central Government to improve understanding of groundwater ecosystems. One sampling round has been completed, revealing diverse species and prompting a second round in March 2026. Early findings show many species with varied tolerance to water quality and highlight their role in sediment mobility. An initial pilot study to monitor stygofauna and microbial activity was undertaken in the Waiwhetū and Moera aquifers. |
| M80 | Aquifer wells in Te Whanganui-a-Tara by Matiu/Somes Island are continuously monitored. | Fully implemented: Completed project | Aquifer wells in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, including one at Matiu/Somes Island, are continuously monitored as part of the Waiwhetū Aquifer monitoring network. Greater Wellington and Wellington Water collect data from multiple bores across the Hutt Valley and Petone foreshore, including different depths to track saline intrusion. Monitoring occurs automatically every 15 minutes, providing real-time information on water quality and aquifer health. |
| M81 | On the southwest coast, seabird taonga species such as kororā (penguins) and tītī (mutton-birds) are monitored, including for abundance and size to measure ecosystem health. | Partially Implemented: Planning | Coastal bird surveys are undertaken every five years. The latest report is available here: https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2025/08/McArthur-2025-State-and-trends-of-coastal-birds-in-the-Wellington-Region.pdf Penguins are not monitored because they come ashore at night and require specialised penguin detector dog surveys. Current information comes from community groups and consent processes. Tītī numbers are influenced by offshore fish stocks beyond |

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| | | | <p>territorial waters and are not related to catchment condition.</p> <p>GW supports the Dotterel project as part of the Mainland Island Restoration Organization (MIRO), a community group based in East Harbour involving GWRC, HCC, Birds NZ, and Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika.</p> |
| M82 | <p>Greater Wellington will share decision-making with Mana Whenua so that they are actively involved in determining whether a resource consent application for an activity near or on Mana Whenua sites of significance is more than minor.</p> | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>The updated Te Wāhi process identifies sites of significance listed in Schedule C and D. Where effects on these sites are identified, mana whenua consultation always occurs to determine the nature and magnitude of the effect.</p> <p>GWRC prepares applications for consents on works it undertakes that require resource consent. GWRC is moving toward involving mana whenua early in the application process through relationships with Rūnanga contractors and Te Hunga Whiriwhiri.</p> <p>GWRC seeks direct iwi comments before the application is processed by E-Reg and shared through Te Wāhi SharePoint for further consent collaboration with mana whenua.</p> |
| M83 | <p>Greater Wellington will share decision-making with Mana Whenua so that they are actively involved in the restoration and protection of Mana Whenua sites of significance.</p> | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>GW partnership with mana whenua is evolving. Rōpū Tiaki co-manages the Parangarēhu Lakes and this is being expanded into East Harbour Regional Park alongside the Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme..</p> |
| M84 | <p>Rōpū (group) Tiaki Mana Whenua and their iwi boards have tino rangatiratanga for setting priorities and visions for the lakes.</p> | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | <p>Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes. The acquisition of Gollan's Valley property supports this recommendation.</p> |

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| M85 | The current monitoring programme for the lakes is expanded and resourced so that it includes identifying attributes and baseline states for assessing achievement of Mana Whenua environmental outcomes. | Partially Implemented: Delivery | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes. The acquisition of Gollan's Valley property supports this recommendation. |
| M86 | Public access to the lakes is reviewed by Mana Whenua and Greater Wellington to address Mana Whenua concerns, particularly around the introduction of invasive species. Visitors (walkers and cyclists) to the lakes area must undertake biosecurity controls when entering the area. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes. Biosecurity measures are in place for permit holders. The acquisition of Gollan's Valley property supports this recommendation. |
| M87 | The monitoring of taonga species is increased to support the long-term vision of sustainable cultural harvest of tuna and other valued species for special occasions like tangihanga. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes with surveys planned. |
| M88 | Greater Wellington continues to resource investigations to understand the ecological and water quality baseline for the lakes, including their connectivity to the sea, expected species and underlying soil characteristics by 2035. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes. The acquisition of Gollan's Valley property supports this recommendation. |
| M89 | Pest management is addressed to accelerate the improvement and restoration of the lakes. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes including pest management. The acquisition of Gollan's Valley property supports this recommendation. |

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| M90 | Stock exclusion from waterways is prioritised in the area, and Greater Wellington will provide support to affected landowners in its implementation. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | This recommendation is supported by Plan Change 1 (PC1), which was notified on 30 October 2023. PC1 prioritises the development of farm environment plans within the Parangārehu Lakes catchment. Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes including pest management. The acquisition of Gollan’s Valley property supports this recommendation. |
| M91 | Greater Wellington resources and supports Mana Whenua-led mātauranga Māori monitoring and care of the lakes and the whaitua/catchment. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes. The acquisition of Gollan’s Valley property supports this recommendation. |
| M92 | If the historical material (post-earthquake) suggests connectivity to the sea for Lake Kohangapiripiri, then Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua will develop and implement a plan for reinstating the lakes’ natural ability to breach out to the sea. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes including pest management. |
| M93 | That a public report card/dashboard tool is established for the lakes to clearly communicate the degree of achievement of the targets and outcomes. This could include mātauranga attributes. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | Rōpū Tiaki makes all decisions with respect to the Lakes. A public report card/dashboard is to be considered. |
| M94 | All-natural wetlands (including degraded wetlands) within Te Whanganui-a-Tara regardless of size are mapped and protected by Greater Wellington. | Partially Implemented | Greater Wellington has mapped some natural inland wetlands and completed a desktop exercise to identify wet areas that need ground-truthing to confirm wetland status. A wetland mapping steering group has been established to address landowner privacy issues. |
| M95 | All wetland margins adjoining natural and induced wetlands with outstanding indigenous biodiversity are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapped by Greater Wellington, | Partially Implemented | Greater Wellington has mapped some natural inland wetlands and completed a desktop exercise to identify wet areas that need ground-truthing to confirm wetland status. A |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restored so that they are once again a functioning part of the main wetland and are. Protected by including them in Schedule A3: Wetlands with outstanding indigenous biodiversity values of the PNRP. | | <p>wetland mapping steering group has been established to address landowner privacy issues.</p> <p>Incentives exist for fencing, planting, and weed control through the Wetland Programme and Riparian Programme.</p> |
| M96 | The area of land contiguous to any existing wetland that is scheduled as a wetland with outstanding indigenous biodiversity values, which includes (but is not limited to) the Maymorn Wetlands and Mount Cone Turfs is also captured within Schedule A3: Wetlands with outstanding indigenous biodiversity values of the PNRP. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | No additional update |
| M97 | All the repo (wetland) in the Parangārehu Lakes area are classified as wetlands with outstanding indigenous biodiversity values in Schedule A3 of the PNRP. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | No additional update |
| M98 | Greater Wellington reviews all existing consent conditions that apply to an activity within five hundred metres of an awa so that they reflect allocation limits and water quality standards in the PNRP Operative Rules and give effect to Te Mana o te Wai as required in the NPSFM 2020. | Not Implemented: Future regulatory change | Being addressed at the time of renewal. |
| M99 | Greater Wellington adopts a community whitua restorative approach that punishes polluters and makes them directly answerable to the affected water body and its community. This could include the payment of damages to restore the affected area and its values. Any fines resulting from prosecution will be spent within the affected whitua. | Outside GWRC mandate | No additional update |
| M100 | Greater Wellington lobbies central government to remove the cap on fines so that they can be set at a level commensurate with the effect of the damage incurred. | Not implemented: Scoping needed | No additional update |

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| M101 | Greater Wellington adopts best management practice for managing its land that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fencing waterways,• Retiring marginal land,• Addressing pine plantation forestry activities that affect water quality.• Moving away from hard engineering options for flood management. | Fully implemented: Embedded in BAU | No additional update |
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