



# Regional stormwater policy direction

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# Policy drivers for stormwater

- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010
- Regional Policy Statement 2013
- Regional Plan review
  - Community engagement
  - Regional issues and objectives
  - Implementation of the NPS-FM



# NPS Freshwater Management

- To safeguard:
  - Life supporting capacity of ecosystems
  - Health of communities from secondary contact
- Tasks for regional councils
  - Set objectives and limits to meet:
    - national bottom lines (NOF)
    - regional or catchment objectives set in regional plans
  - Collect information on discharges
  - Implement by 2025

# New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

- Avoid adverse effects of stormwater
  - Integrated catchment management
  - Reducing sewage cross contamination
  - Reducing contamination at source
  - Reduce flows into networks



# Regional Policy Statement 2013

- Affects plan changes and consent applications
- Key directions:
  - Aquatic ecosystem health, contact recreation and the health needs of people
  - Recognising regionally significant infrastructure
  - Policy 14 and 41: minimising effects of stormwater
  - Method 34: regional Stormwater Action Plan



# Regional Plan review

- Underway since 2010...
- Key issues for stormwater
  - Stormwater is contributing to the degradation of water quality
  - Land use exacerbating stormwater discharge volumes and rates
- Stormwater currently a permitted activity
  - Only some TA networks consented



# Aims of the regional plan

- Maintain and improve water quality
  - Describes water quality for ecosystem health and mahinga kai, contact recreation and Māori use
- Achieving secondary and primary contact recreation over time
- Whaitua process to implement NPS-FM
  - Focus on water quality limits, targets and timeframes
  - Integrate water quality and quantity at catchment scale



# Aims of the regional plan

- Focus on TA stormwater networks
- Aims:
  - Regulated approach for TA networks
  - Long term change
  - Consistency between TAs, but flexibility for nature of network and problems
  - Prepare networks for whaitua processes and NPS-FM
  - Good management practice and source control
  - Reduce sewage cross-contamination
  - Opportunities for working together regionally





# What does this mean for TAs?

- First stage consent:
  - short term, controlled activity
  - focus on information collection and developing Stormwater Management Strategy
  - linked with whaitua process
- Second stage consent:
  - long term, restricted discretionary activity
  - focus on development and implementation of catchment-specific stormwater plans
  - respond to outcomes of whaitua process

# What will this mean for wider stormwater community?

- Seeking tools for managing stormwater in Wellington region context
  - Good management practice guidance for subdivision and development, industrial sites, contaminated sites and other high risk land uses
  - Planning changes?
  - Other tools?



# Next stages of plan review

- Draft out 17<sup>th</sup> September
- Open for comment to end November
- Development of Regional Stormwater Working Group method
- Refinement of provisions



# Next stages of plan review

- Review of NPS-FM implementation plan
- Whaitua process for Porirua Harbour catchment:
  - Committee selection Oct to Dec 2014
  - Project team late 2014
  - Committee begins early 2015
- Wellington Harbour next, then Kapiti

