National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management: Freshwater values

Have your say between 13 June and 17 July 2022

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) is a central government policy that gives local authorities direction on how freshwater should be managed in New Zealand. It is based on the fundamental concept of Te mana o te Wai, which prioritises the health of water and focuses on restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community.

The NPS-FM requires every regional council to amend its regional plan by the end of 2024 to give full effect to the NPS-FM; for Auckland that is the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP).

A change to the AUP will significantly impact how Aucklanders manage their land and use water day-to-day, and that's why it is important we hear from you.

We'd like you to tell us what you value most about freshwater, how you currently use it, and what outcomes you'd like to see achieved for freshwater in the future. This will be used to inform the development of AUP plan by setting freshwater water management targets, resource use limits and plan provisions that will apply to land and water use.

In Auckland, we have had a lot of discussion and consultation about how we will manage water in recent years. Feedback received from other water related engagement, for example the Auckland Water Strategy, will also be used to inform the NPS-FM implementation.

We strongly encourage you to read the NPS-FM [link] and background guidance [link] before answering any of the following questions. We encourage you to give feedback online at akhaveyoursay.nz, or you can:

Scan and Email your completed form to:
freshwaterplanning@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Post your completed form to:
Auckland Council Unitary Plan Team,
Freshwater planning
Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West
Auckland, 1142

Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public documents. All other personal details will be kept private.

First name: Last name:

Email address or postal address:

Your local board:

Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business? (If yes, this confirms you have authority to submit on the organisation's behalf)

☐ Yes ☐ No Name of organisation/business: _____

These questions are optional but will help us understand which groups of the community are engaging with us.

What gender are you?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Another gender (please specify): _____

What age group do you belong to?

☐ Under 15 ☐ 15-17 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

☐ Pākehā/NZ European ☐ Other European ☐ Māori
☐ Cook Islands Māori ☐ Samoan ☐ Tongan
☐ Indian ☐ Chinese ☐ Southeast Asian
☐ Other (please specify): _____

Would you like to subscribe to any of the following (tick all that apply):

☐ People's Panel – to take part in council surveys

☐ Our Auckland – your weekly guide to what's happening in Auckland

☐ Auckland Conversations - free public events, offering ideas, inspiration and action for world-class cities

You can also visit AK Have Your Say at akhaveyoursay.nz to find out about, or register to receive regular updates on, consultation activities happening across Auckland

Important privacy information

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at **aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy** and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.

Your feedback (all questions are optional)

Freshwater Management Areas

The NPS-FM requires us to identify Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). A Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) is all or any part of a water body or bodies, and their related catchments that a regional council determines is an appropriate unit for freshwater management.

We have identified three FMUs as broad freshwater management areas for Auckland. Smaller management areas can be provided for within a FMU, where this is considered the best way to manage water.

If you would like to provide feedback on Auckland's FMUs, you can provide it in question eight.

Specified Vegetable Growing Area at Pukekohe

The NPS-FM provides for a specified vegetable growing area at Pukekohe. In managing freshwater, we have to consider the importance of this area to the domestic supply of vegetables and maintaining food security for New Zealand.

The three FMUs and the Pukekohe vegetable growing area are shown on the map [link to FMU and Pukekohe map].

1. **What bodies, or areas, of freshwater (for example, lakes, rivers, wetlands or aquifers) do you use, or value?**

What do you use these freshwater areas for?

Water Values

The NPS-FM has four values (that have been set by the government) and which we must apply in managing freshwater in Auckland. These are:

- **Ecosystem health**
  An ecosystem appropriate to the type of freshwater body (for example, a river, lake, wetland or aquifer). This includes the amount of water, water quality, habitat, aquatic life and ecological processes.
- **Human contact**

People being able to use the water for recreational purposes such as swimming, waka, boating, fishing, mahinga kai, and water skiing, at all times and not dependent on water quality, flow rates or varying water levels.

- **Threatened species**
  Water bodies should provide the critical habitats and conditions necessary to support the presence, survival, and recovery of the relevant threatened species. All of the components of ecosystem health must be managed, even if only for part of the life cycle of the threatened species.
- **Mahinga kai**
  This generally refers to freshwater species that have traditionally been used as food, tools, or other resources. It also refers to the places those species are found and to the act of catching or harvesting them.

2. When thinking about the bodies of water you use, or value, overall how important are these values to you?

		Less important	Fairly important	Very important
A.	Ecosystem health	☐	☐	☐
B.	Human contact	☐	☐	☐
C.	Threatened species	☐	☐	☐
D.	Mahinga kai	☐	☐	☐

The NPS-FM also requires us to consider the following values in managing water: :

- **Natural form and character**
  The naturally occurring qualities that people value about a particular waterbody, i.e. naturally occurring patterns, unique landforms or vegetation cover etc.
- **Drinking water supply**
  Ensuring there is a sufficient supply of water that is safe to be used for drinking
- **Wai tapu**
  Places of significance to tanagta whenua, or an area where rituals and ceremonies can be performed.
- **Transport and tauranga waka**
  A place thar can be used to launch waka and other watercraft, and appropriate for waka to land (tauranga waka)
- **Fishing**
  The ability to fish for permitted species
- **Animal drinking water**
  Ensuring there is enough drinking water to meet the needs of farmed animals.
- **Irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages**

Ensuring we can meet the Irrigation needs for the cropping, farming, or any other purposes.

- **Commercial and industrial use**
  Adequate supply for use by businesses and industrial activities.

3. Again, when thinking about the bodies of water you use, or value, which of these values are most important to you? (select up to three)

- ☐ Natural form and character
- ☐ Wai tapu
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Irrigation, cultivation, and production of food and beverages
- ☐ Drinking water supply
- ☐ Transport and tauranga waka
- ☐ Animal drinking water
- ☐ Commercial and industrial use

4. Are there any other values that you think are important for managing freshwater in general?

Now we want to know a bit more about the bodies of freshwater you use or value, and those that you don't use but would like to. For the following questions, if you identify more than one body of water, please be clear which comments relate to which body of water.

5. What do you value about the freshwater bodies you use or that are important to you?

(Name the body of water first, then why, e.g. I swim here, I pick up food here, I take water for irrigation, I go fishing here, this water is culturally important to me etc.)

What is your hope for the future state of this water body?

6. What freshwater bodies are you not able to use in the way you would like to be able to? Can you tell us why this is?

(Name the body of water first, then why, e.g. water quality is poor or polluted, water is insufficient for my irrigation, there are no fish in the stream etc.)

What Is your hope for the future state of this water body??

7. What bodies of freshwater would you like to use in future, and how?

(Name the body of water first, then how, e.g. I want to be able to swim in this river, I want to be able to fish in this stream, I want to use this water for irrigation)

What is your hope for the future state of this water body?

8. Do you have any feedback on the three Freshwater Management Areas?

9. Do you have any other feedback on the way freshwater is currently managed in Auckland?

Freshwater Management Units Map

