

Topic: Water quality

Northland Regional Council

15 October 2014, 9:30am – 3:30pm
Council Chamber, Northland Regional Council,
36 Water Street, Whangarei

Workshop goals:

Participants will:

- Understand the current approach to managing water quality in Northland
- Provide feedback on the issues with the current approaches in the regional plans for managing water quality
- Share their ideas about possible future management approaches for managing water quality
- Know how to continue to be involved in the development of the new regional plan(s).

Chair: NRC Councillor (TBC)

Presenter: Ben Tait (NRC)

Facilitators: Justin Murfitt, James Griffin, Robyn Broadhurst, Michael Payne, Ben Lee (NRC)

Note taker: Jon Trewin (NRC)

Experts / scientists: Stuart Savill, Richard Griffiths, Dennis Wright

9:30 – 9:45 **Welcome, introductions, and house keeping**

9:45 – 11:00 **Session 1: Issues with the state of Northland's water quality**

In this session we will look at the significant issues with the state of Northland's fresh and coastal water quality:

- Nutrient enrichment of dune lakes
- Sediment accumulation rates in estuaries
- Water clarity in rivers
- Faecal contaminants in rivers and estuaries

Small group discussions will follow the presentation.

Key questions for the discussion:

- Do you agree with the evidential basis of our findings?
- Are there any issues that we have overlooked?

11:00 – 11:15 **Morning tea (provided)**

11:15 – 1:00 **Session 2: Issues with the management of Northland’s water quality**

In this session we will look at the significant issues with the management of Northland’s water fresh and coastal water quality:

- Implementing recent national and regional policy direction
- Managing the sources of the “big three” contaminants
- Fresh and coastal water quality managed in isolation
- Administrative issues with current policies and rules

Small group discussions will follow the presentation.

Key questions for the discussion:

- Have we correctly identified the significant issues with the management of Northland’s water quality?
- Based on your experiences with the current regional plans, what are the main administrative issues with the current policies and rules?

1:00 – 1:30 **Lunch**

1:30 – 3:00 **Session 3: Options for improving our management of water quality**

In this session we will look at options for addressing the issues with the state and management of Northland’s water quality.

The first part of session will be on water quality objectives and limits fresh and coastal waters (approx. 1 hr.). We will then look at options for managing point source and non-point sources of contaminants (approx. 1.5 hr.):

- Domestic and municipal wastewater infrastructure
- Stormwater infrastructure
- Industrial and trade premises
- Animal effluent, other agricultural wastewater and fertilisers
- Land disturbance activities (e.g. earthworks, stock access to water bodies)

Small group discussions will follow the presentations.

Key questions for the discussion:

- Do you agree with our suggested approach for setting water quality objectives and limits? For example, should we set water quality objectives for attributes that are not currently in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014?
- Have we have overlooked any options for improving the management of point source and non-point source discharges?

3:00 – 3:15 **Afternoon tea (provided)**

3:15 – 4:15 **Session 3 continued**

4:15 – 4:30 **Wrap up, next steps & evaluations**

- Summary of key points from the day
- Next steps in the process explained
- Participants evaluate the workshop